

Overview

SAFETY ASSESSMENT OF FOREIGN AIRCRAFT (SAFA)

EU States are legally obliged under community legislation to establish a programme with procedures for the surveillance of operations in their territory by a foreign operator and for taking appropriate action when necessary to preserve safety. This led to the Safety Assessment of Foreign Aircraft (SAFA) programme being established by the European Commission with EASA overseeing its management. Under the SAFA programme, a third country aircraft may be inspected within EU Member States. If an inspection finds irregularities these are followed up with the airline and appropriate national aviation authority.

If these irregularities are deemed significant enough to impact safety, the aircraft may be grounded until it is rectified. The two main objectives of the SAFA programme are:

1. to inspect third-country aircraft landing at EU airports involved in commercial operations, from other EU Member States, over 5700 KG involved in non-commercial operations and helicopter operations;
2. to participate in the collection and exchange of information on the ramp inspections results.

