

IATA Annual Security Report (IASeR)

2024 Edition



Geopolitical Risk

The year 2024 highlighted the intricate challenges faced by aircraft operators and States in managing risks associated with conflict zones. The ongoing specter of geopolitical risk continues to disrupt the stability of civil aviation, manifesting through economic sanctions, threats to operational continuity in conflict zones, and increasingly sophisticated interference with civil aviation systems. These included incidents involving Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS) spoofing and signal interference, which added layers of unpredictability to an already complex operational landscape.

The heightened complexity necessitated a closer integration of safety and security disciplines. The need for collaboration to navigate risk parameters, define tolerances, and strengthen governance has become more pressing than ever. This intersection of safety and security underscores the criticality of a unified approach in addressing emerging risks.

Such was the gravity of the situation that IATA issued a public statement emphasizing the urgent need for the protection of civil aviation from interference. This call to action highlights the importance of reinforcing global standards, ensuring operational resilience, and safeguarding the principles of civil aviation amidst an evolving threat environment.

The events of 2024 demonstrate that addressing risks from conflict zones requires not just immediate responses but a strategic, multi-stakeholder approach to enhance the safety and security of global aviation operations.



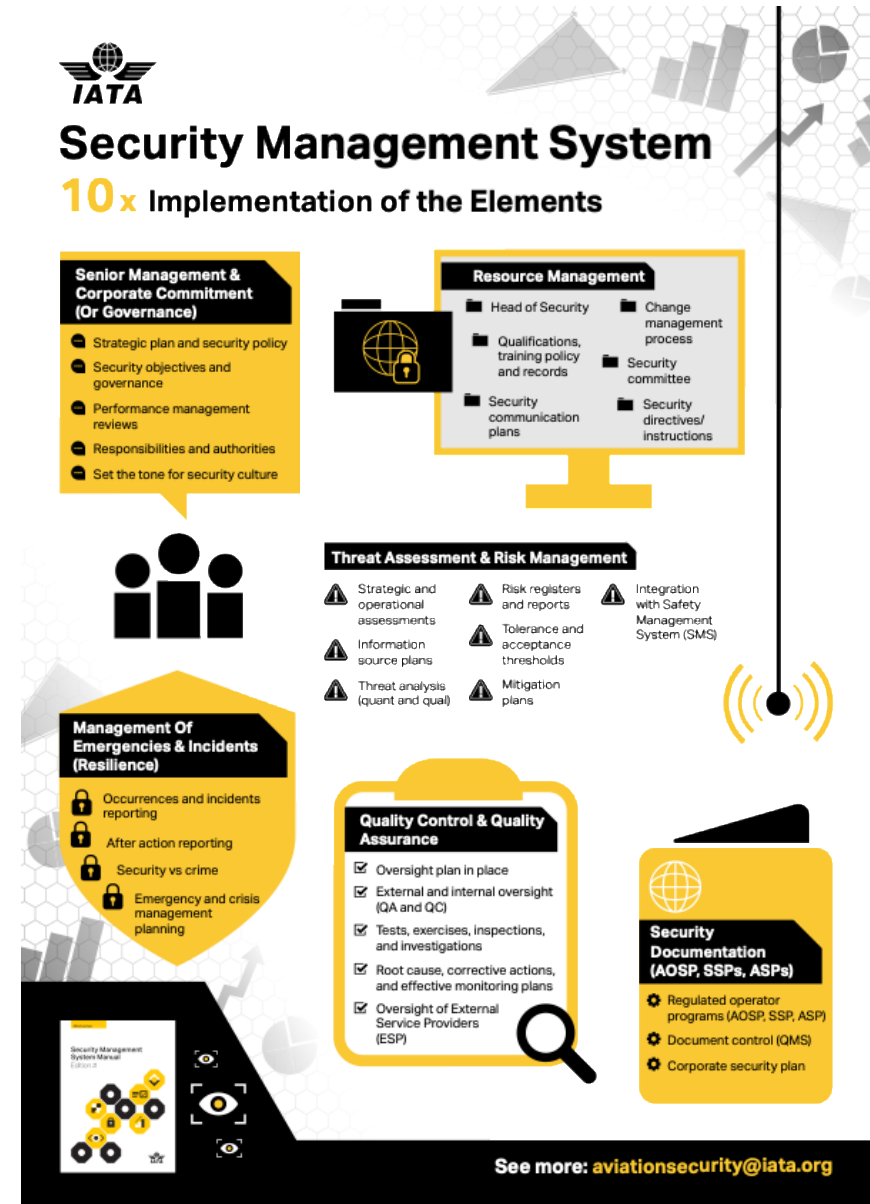
Security Management System (SeMS)

2024 reaffirmed the critical importance of risk management and regulatory compliance focused on security outcomes as foundational elements of effective security programs. The evolving nature of hybrid threats has underscored the necessity of measuring and managing security performance to ensure robust and adaptable operations. The Security Management System (SeMS) framework represents a pivotal step for the industry, aligning economic imperatives with the delivery of services while achieving meaningful security outcomes.

The integration of SeMS for External Service Providers (ESPs) highlighted the growing recognition of SeMS as an industry standard. In support of this, IATA has developed extensive guidance, tools, and programs to facilitate adoption among stakeholders, with the goal of reinforcing the SeMS posture of IOSA-registered airlines and their business partners.

Balancing self-assurance and regulatory oversight have emerged as a complementary model for enhancing aviation security. Operator-led self-assurance through SeMS empowers organizations to proactively manage risks and adapt to changing conditions, while targeted regulatory oversight ensures accountability and consistent standards. This mutual reinforcement strengthens the overall security framework and addresses potential gaps efficiently.

In 2024 IATA released the SeMS Certification Program giving entities a first time opportunity to certify and validate their operations against latest standards and recommended practices as an industry contributor.



Air Cargo Security

Increased Demand and Critical Role of Air Cargo

In 2024, global air cargo experienced significant growth driven by e-commerce and international trade, transporting over 62 million metric tons and representing 35% of world trade by value. This critical economic role highlights the importance of ensuring a secure and resilient air cargo system to address evolving security challenges.

Improvised Incendiary Device (IID) Incident and Security Vulnerabilities

The July 2024 IID Act of Unlawful Interference, involving incendiary devices concealed in parcels, exposed vulnerabilities in the air cargo system. The incident disrupted operations in existing security measures and was reported to ICAO as an Act of Unlawful Interference. It underscored the need for enhanced security measures and global collaboration to mitigate risks.

IATA's Coordinated Industry Response

IATA led efforts to address the IID threat by engaging with regulators, revising standard messaging frameworks, and developing tools like the "Established Business Relationship Statement." Collaboration with industry groups, ICAO, and national governments focused on harmonizing security measures, while new guidance material for mitigating IID risks is set for release in 2025.



ICAO GAsEP 2.0 & Muscat Declaration

Strengthening Global Security Frameworks

The second release of the ICAO Global Aviation Security Plan (GAsEP) emphasized global cooperation to address emerging threats such as cyberattacks and insider risks. The Muscat Declaration called for States to align their aviation security and cybersecurity priorities with the second edition of GAsEP, reinforcing the shared goal of "Every Flight is Safe and Secure."

Resource Allocation and Capability Building

Recognizing the critical role of qualified aviation security professionals, the updated GAsEP and Muscat Declaration highlighted the need for adequate resourcing, skills development, and the use of emerging technologies. This includes promoting diversity and preparing the next generation of aviation professionals to meet future security challenges.

Focus on Risk-Based and Outcome-Oriented Policies

The updated GAsEP prioritized risk-based, outcome-focused approaches to aviation security and cybersecurity. This includes adopting innovative strategies, fostering information sharing, and ensuring the effective implementation of ICAO standards while facilitating passenger and cargo flow.



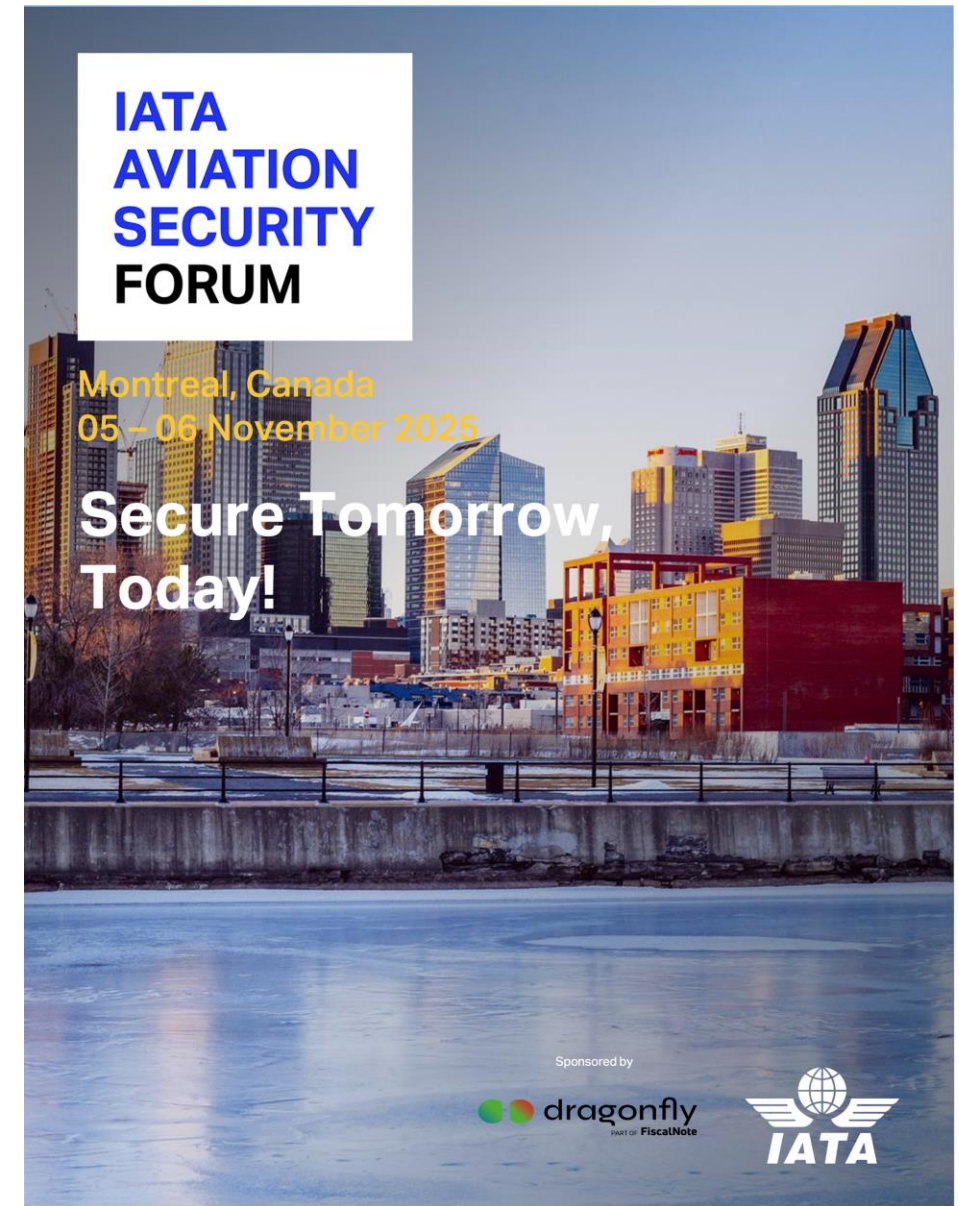
Aviation Security Forum 2025

Aviation Security Forum: Enhancing Resilience in an Evolving Threat Landscape

Join us for the **Aviation Security Forum**, a focused technical event designed to address the latest challenges and advancements in aviation security. As the aviation sector grapples with an evolving threat environment—including cyberattacks, insider risks, and emerging vulnerabilities—this forum provides an essential platform for industry leaders, regulators, and technical experts to collaborate on innovative solutions.

Key topics will include:

- **Insights from ICAO's 2024 Updates:** Exploring the second release of the Global Aviation Security Plan (GASeP) and its implications for global and regional security frameworks.
- **Emerging Threats and Risk-Based Responses:** Addressing the critical importance of adopting outcome-focused, risk-based approaches to counter insider threats, cyberattacks, and other evolving risks.
- **Strengthening Security Through SeMS:** Highlighting the role of Security Management Systems (SeMS) in empowering operators to manage risks, enhance self-assurance, and foster a resilient aviation security culture.





More information

iata.org/security-report