

Assurance Maturity Self-Assessment

Where does your operation sit today, and what does the next rung look like?

A companion tool to the article "Compliance vs Assurance: What Continuous Audit Readiness Really Means"

Why a self-assessment matters

Most aviation operators aren't struggling to be compliant. They're struggling to prove it, at a moment's notice, without spending days pulling records out of separate systems.

That's the difference between compliance and assurance. Compliance is evidence that your controls existed and worked at some point in the past. Assurance is knowing, right now, that they still do.

This self-assessment is a quick way to see where your operation sits today on the path to continuous assurance, and what the next step looks like.

How to use this tool

Below are four stages of assurance maturity, each with a short set of statements. Read through all four and tick whichever statements sound true for your operation, wherever they land.

Most operators tick statements across two or three stages at once. That's normal, and it's exactly what this tool is designed to surface. Once you've been through all four, turn to "Where do you sit?" to see what your pattern means.





The Assurance Maturity Ladder

Rung 1: Reactive/Periodic

Compliance is proven when an audit or inspection demands it. The evidence exists, but it's assembled after the fact.

- ☐ We can produce compliance evidence, but we usually go looking for it once an audit or surveillance visit is announced.
- ☐ Records for our SMS, corrective actions and training are in separate systems, folders or inboxes.
- ☐ Preparing for a scheduled audit typically takes days, or longer, of pulling evidence together.
- ☐ We usually find out about a gap in our controls when someone else points it out.

Rung 2: Documented/Repeatable

Processes and records exist consistently, but they're still fragmented across separate tools.

- ☐ We have consistent, reliable processes and records for SMS, audits, corrective actions and training.
- ☐ Those records live in several different tools or spreadsheets.
- ☐ We could produce most evidence reasonably quickly, but it still takes manual work to bring it together.
- ☐ No single person has a live view across the whole operation, only their own part of it.

Rung 3: Connected/Visible

Records are linked, so a change in one place is reflected wherever else it matters.

- ☐ Our SMS, audit, corrective action, document control and training records are connected, not siloed.
- ☐ A change in one place, a closed corrective action or an updated document, shows up wherever else it's relevant.
- ☐ We can usually answer "are we on top of this" within a day, not a week.
- ☐ Producing evidence for a specific question still depends on someone being available to pull it together.

Rung 4: Continuous Assurance

The current state of compliance and risk is visible in real time, to the right person, without anyone having to assemble it.

- ☐ The right person can see our live compliance and risk position at any time, without anyone assembling a report.
- ☐ An executive overseeing multiple sites sees a real-time picture across all of them and a site manager sees exactly what's relevant to their site.
- ☐ A surveillance visit confirms what we already know about ourselves, rather than telling us something new.
- ☐ We know today, in real-time, not just periodically, whether our controls are working.





Where does your organisation sit?

The stage where you ticked the most statements is roughly where your operation sits today. If your ticks span two stages, that's the clearest possible picture: most operators sit somewhere in the middle of the ladder, doing the work and keeping the records, but not yet able to see the whole picture in one place without effort.

Getting to the next rung is about connecting what you already have, not doing more work.

Mostly Rung 1 — Reactive/Periodic

Start by bringing your SMS, audit and corrective action records into one place, even before you connect them. Consolidation comes before connection.

Mostly Rung 2 — Documented/Repeatable

The next step is connecting the systems you already have, so a change in one place is reflected wherever else it matters.

Mostly Rung 3 — Connected/Visible

Close the loop with role-based, real-time visibility, so the current picture is always available without anyone having to assemble it.

Mostly Rung 4 — Continuous Assurance

You're already demonstrating what most of the industry is only just moving towards. Regulators, including the [UK CAA](#) and [CASA](#) in Australia, are shifting oversight in the same direction: risk-based, performance-based and continuous.

This isn't just a OneReg framework

[ICAO's Safety Management Manual \(Doc 9859\)](#) names safety assurance as its own distinct component of a Safety Management System, separate from safety policy, safety risk management and safety promotion.

The [UK CAA's](#) performance-based oversight approach adjusts the volume and focus of oversight according to risk and organisational performance, and [Australia's CASA](#) runs an explicitly risk-based surveillance programme.

Wherever your operation sits on the ladder, the direction of travel is the same: towards continuous, demonstrated assurance.





Complete regulatory assurance

OneReg was built by aviators and its founders bring 100+ years of combined aviation experience to close the gap between compliance and assurance.

It's one connected platform for SMS, audit and inspection, corrective actions, document control, regulatory change and training records, with role-based, real-time dashboards. Move your organisation towards Rung 4: Continuous Assurance.

"We recently went through a CASA surveillance and having OneReg made a real difference."

— Regional airport operator, OneReg customer

See what continuous assurance could look like for your operation.
[Book a demo.](#)

