

# IS-BAO – More Than an SMS

By Bennet Walsh, IS-BAO Program Director



In 2002, the International Business Aviation Council (IBAC) introduced the IS-BAO Program to provide a safety framework to support operators and later incorporated a practical Safety Management System (SMS) application. Today, IS-BAO is more than an SMS, it is an integrated business and risk management tool for the entire organization.

Uniquely positioned as a non-profit, international trade association, IBAC has observer status at the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and represents the industry through its member associations – including NBAA – to ensure global aviation standards developed at ICAO reflect business aviation needs. IS-BAO is governed by a Standards Board of industry professionals as is its sister program, the International Standard for Business Aircraft Handling (IS-BAH) introduced in 2014. IS-BAH also offers Fixed Based Operators (FBO) and Business Aircraft Handling Agents (BAHA) an industry-developed code of best practices and is scalable to any size organization. Working in unison, the two standards' core foundation is based on delivering quality programs that are created FOR the industry, BY the industry, and are equal partners in safety.

Implementing the IS-BAO Program may sound complicated, but we break it down into six steps, and if you need assistance,

we have qualified Program Support Affiliates (PSA) available to support you every step of the way. Most operators already have many IS-BAO processes in use but may not have them documented or have compared them with a global standard. IS-BAO provides a framework to help you.

IS-BAO continues to evolve with the industry and provide more benefits to operators. Due to IBAC's work at ICAO and with authorities around the world, IS-BAO registration may facilitate credit toward compliance with certain States' standards or is recognized as an alternate means of compliance. Furthermore, IBAC is engaged with EASA and some European national authorities regarding credit for IS-BAO-registered operators in the context of the Safety Assessment of Foreign Aircraft (SAFA) ramp inspection program.

Another initiative that is currently in beta testing is our new advanced Progressive Stage 3 option for IS-BAO operators that have a mature integrated SMS and want to continue the path of continuous improvement. The Progressive option includes a streamlined one-day annual audit and sharing of confidential safety data for industry benchmarking and to support other IS-BAO operators.

For more information on IS-BAO, don't hesitate to contact me at [bwalsh@ibac.org](mailto:bwalsh@ibac.org).



The International Standard for Business Aircraft Operations (IS-BAO) – is THE globally recognized safety standard created FOR the industry, BY the industry. This fact is IS-BAO is managed by IBAC, a non-profit global association and governed by a Standards Board of Operators, always with your best interests in mind.

### FACTS

**MORE THAN A SMS** – IS-BAO is MORE than a Safety Management System (SMS) – it's an effective-risk-reduction tool and Integrated Management System for your business.

**ONLY B-ITEMS** to apply the IS-BAO standard to your operations and address compliance.

**ONE & SMALL APPLICATIONS** – The performance-based structure is scalable to any size operation. IS-BAO is NOT just for large global operations.

**BOTTOM LINE SAVINGS** – IS-BAO SAVES expenses by improving operational efficiency and providing access to preferred rates from leading insurance carriers.

**LEARN MORE AT [www.ibac.org](http://www.ibac.org) OR CALL BY CONTACTING [bwalsh@ibac.org](mailto:bwalsh@ibac.org)**



As a non-profit, international trade association, IBAC represents the interests of business aviation operators worldwide, including by developing – through its global standards development process – the IS-BAO, used by operators around the world to enhance their safety and risk management.

