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**TO: NON-EU BUSINESS AVIATION COMMERCIAL OPERATORS**  
**FROM: IS-BAO PROGRAMME DIRECTOR BENNET WALSH**  
**DATE: 02AUG2018**  
**SUBJECT: EASA CONFIRMS IS-BAO SMS USE IN TCO AUTHORIZATIONS**

Since 2016, all non E.U.-based business aviation commercial operators must have a Third Country Operator (TCO) authorization from EASA to conduct flights into the E.U. The International Business Aviation Council's (IBAC) IS-BAO Programme issued in September 2016 an "IS-BAO-INFO-2016-1: EASA TCO SMS" ([HERE](#)) to provide guidance, based on the EASA website, and a step-by-step walk-through of the Basic Operator Data (BOD) TCO application pages.

The EASA TCO process assesses the risk profiles of commercial operators using many variables, including an operator's SMS. To date, EASA has issued nearly 200 TCO authorizations (and counting) to operators implementing the IS-BAO SMS. IS-BAO continues to be an important part of the TCO process.

This IS-BAO INFO is issued to remind operators of the utility of the IS-BAO SMS in the EASA TCO context and to recall that only EASA has the authority to advise on methods for compliance with EASA requirements, such as TCO. Non-European authorities do not have that competence.

EASA confirms that the TCO SMS may be the IS-BAO SMS or a State approved SMS. EASA accepts the operator's choice.

“ In the ambit of EASA TCO authorization, operators are free to utilize on a voluntary basis any third-party SMS programme of their choice, established either by civil aviation authorities, industry associations (*including but not limited to, the IS-BAO programme of IBAC*) or commercial entities.” ”

Excerpt from letter, dated 2018 July from EASA official.

[See the full EASA letter](#)

**Please reach out with comments or questions.**

Bennet Walsh, IS-BAO Programme Director

[bwalsh@ibac.org](mailto:bwalsh@ibac.org)

+1-850-525-9990 US PST

## IS-BAO™ CONTACTS

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Vice Chairman

Juergen Wiese, EBAA

### Bennet Walsh

IS-BAO™ Programme Director

[bwalsh@ibac.org](mailto:bwalsh@ibac.org)

### Jason Starke

Operations Manager

[jstarke@ibac.org](mailto:jstarke@ibac.org)

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Stan Medved, EBAA  
Dan Boedigheimer, NBAA  
Mike Ott - NBAA

**Daniel Devraignes**

Audit Manager  
ddevraignes@ibac.org

**Yvonne Marinus**

Accreditation Manager  
ymarinus@ibac.org

**Stéphane De Wolf**

E.U. Operations Specialist  
sdewolf@ibac.org

**Brenda Pizano**

International Standards Support  
IBAC  
bpizano@ibac.org

Further details can be found on  
the IBAC website: [www.ibac.org](http://www.ibac.org)

Thank you all for your participation.

