



21 October 2025

MAA/RN/2025/05 – Defence Equipment and Support (DE&S) new Operating Model trial and MAA Regulatory Publication (MRP) compliance

References:

- A. RA 1012 – Director General (Air) – Air Safety Responsibilities.
- B. RA 1013 – Air Systems Operating Centre Director – Provision of Airworthy and Safe Systems.
- C. 20241129-Waiver Application-DE&S RA1012 Holder email, dated 29 November 2024.

Issue

In January 2025 the DE&S organization initiated a 2-year Operating Model (Op Model) refresh trial.

The MRP details Air Safety Responsibilities to specific roles with DE&S (References A and B). The DE&S Op Model refresh resulted in the 3* Director General (Air) (DG(Air)) role ceasing to exist, and the 2* Operating Centre (OC) Director roles being renamed.

Scope

This Regulatory Notice (RN) relates to the alternative approach to MRP compliance for DE&S to delivering Air Safety Responsibilities, while upholding Air Safety Assurance in DE&S.

Aim

This RN is to inform the Regulated Community (RC) of the intent to maintain legacy terminology within the MRP until the outcome of the DE&S Op Model refresh trial is understood.

Implementation

This RN is effective from 10 October 2025 until 28 February 2027.

Background / Introduction

In November 2024 DE&S submitted a Waiver request (Reference C) to allow DE&S to diverge from MRP compliance whilst conducting the DE&S Op Model trial.

The trial has transferred the DG(Air)'s Air Safety Responsibilities (Reference A) to the 2* Director Engineering and Safety. The OC Director roles (Reference B) have been renamed (eg Director Air Fixed Wing, Director Air Rotary and Uncrewed Air Systems, etc).

In January 2025 the MAA approved the DE&S Waiver (MAA_AWE_2024_175). The MAA will not update the MRP until the trial outcomes are understood and any final amendments to DE&S structure completed. Until then, the RC is to continue to apply RA 1012 and RA 1013, being cognisant of the role title changes and responsibility transferal. If any doubt exists as to where Air



Safety Responsibilities or decision making sits then advice can be sought from the DE&S Head of Engineering Assurance (Air), the DE&S Airworthiness Team, or MRP Enquiries.

Transitional Arrangements

There are no transitional arrangements.

If, post conclusion of the trial the outcomes require MRP amendments, transitional arrangements will be distributed by a further RN.

Queries

Any observations or requests for further guidance on the content of this RN should be submitted by email to DSA-MAA-MRPEnquiries@mod.gov.uk.

Deputy Head Regulation, MAA



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