Contractor Flying Approved Organizations Scheme (Basic Uncrewed Air Systems CFAOS(BU) Guidance – V2.1

Guidance for Approval under the (CFAOS(BU))

The Military Aviation Authority (MAA), as the competent authority, is mandated by the Secretary of State for Defence to establish internal standards and management arrangements that deliver outcomes at least as good as those required by applicable legislation. The MAA exercises full oversight of all Defence aviation activity and functions as the single regulatory authority for Air Safety across Defence. Organizations operating Uncrewed Aircraft (UA) within the Open Category and Specific Category (S1) are required to obtain approval under the CFAOS(BU), in accordance with MAA Regulatory Publication (MRP) RA 1031.

Reference

Full details of the requirements can be found in the MRP, with CFAOS(BU) specified under RA 1031.

CFAOS(BU) Initial Approval Process

Organizations seeking CFAOS(BU) approval shall submit a completed MAA Form 2 (CFAOS(BU)) to the MAA CFAOS Branch (see figure 1). The application must be signed by the sponsoring MOD organization and the organization's Uncrewed Air Systems Accountable Manager (UAS AM).

On receipt of the MAA Form 2, the MAA CFAOS Branch shall acknowledge the application, issue a unique company identifier, and nominate an MAA CFAOS(BU) Lead. Applicants shall then provide their CFOE(BU), Form 4, Operations Manual and supporting documentation as required.

An initial desk-top review will be conducted to assess how the organization's documentation demonstrates compliance with regulation. Feedback shall be provided to allow amendments. A subsequent assessment visit will then confirm compliance with relevant RAs and the organization's documented processes and procedures.

Findings identified during the review or assessment visit shall be recorded. Non-compliances and non-conformances will be issued as Corrective Action Requirements (CARs). Organizations must provide a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) for closure of CARs.

Once the MAA is satisfied that all requirements have been met, a recommendation for approval will be submitted to the MAA endorsing officer. Operations under CFAOS(BU) may only commence once the approval certificate has been issued.

Letter of Endorsed Categorization (LEC) – BU Approach

A separate RA 1600 Annex B submission is normally not required for CFAOS (BU) applications. Information required for a LEC shall be contained within the CFOE(BU), Operations Manual and supporting documentation. The MAA may request additional information if required.
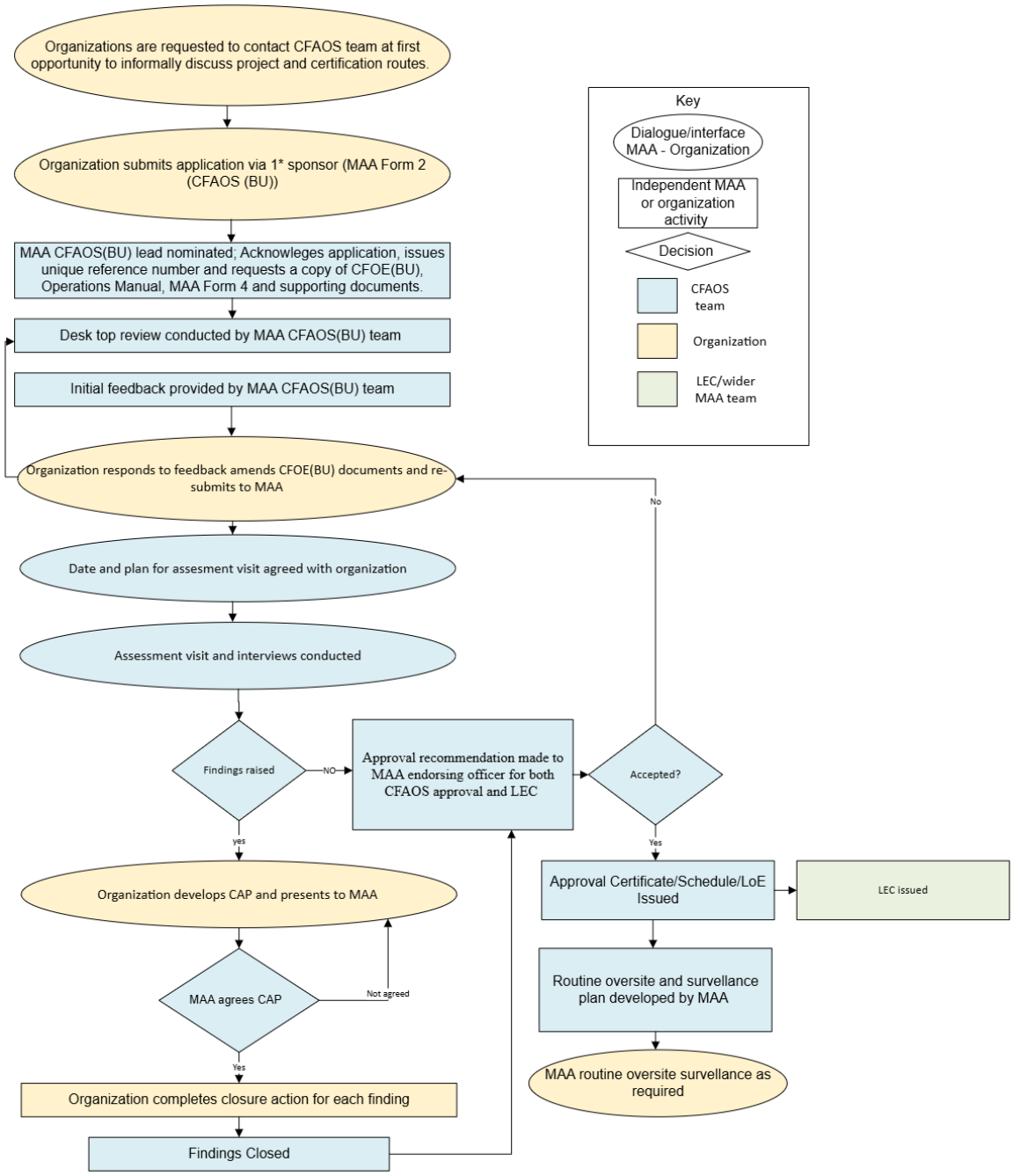
Figure 1: CFAOS(BU) Approval Process Flow Chart