Since September 2018, this directive has become a reference for all affiliates from all Divisions, and the Company is working on a yearly update to constantly improve it. Based on the directive, a newly harmonised questionnaire was sent to all affiliates in 2019 to self-assess their internal controls, including how they relate to the environment, health & safety, human resources and procurement compliance requirements. Regarding the above activities, affiliates were asked to confirm that all relevant Airbus policies were accessible to their employees and duly communicated to them. If that is not the case, affiliates shall take appropriate actions to remediate the gaps.

To verify that the answers provided to the questionnaire are in line with the Company’s expectations, so-called “Fit” checks started to be performed in 2018 on some Finance, Compliance and Governance key controls for affiliates of the Company and its two Divisions. From 20 Fit checks performed in 2018, the Company increased to 70 in 2019 and aims to reach 100 Fit checks in 2020.

1.2.2 Responsible Company

a. Aviation and Product Safety

I. Introduction

At Airbus, we believe that everyone in our industry has a role to play to further enhance the safety of the air transport system. Flying today is safer than ever before, and collective efforts continue to ensure it will be even safer by anticipating and responding to risks, threats and challenges. Whilst the foundations of safety are built on regulatory compliance, the Company goes beyond airworthiness requirements to also focus on safety enhancement activities in products and services.

II. Governance

A dedicated safety organisation within the Company acts as an independent voice of safety. The Chief Product Safety Officer for the commercial aircraft activities of the Company reports directly to the CEO and is the Chairman of the Product Safety Board (PSB). Several Executive Committee Members and senior executives are part of the PSB to ensure proactive safety decision making is based on multidisciplinary assessments at the highest decision level of the Company. The PSB does not only make decisions regarding technical aspects but also safety governance, strategy and performance aspects.

Airbus Safety Management System

Consistent with ICAO Annex 19, the Airbus Corporate Safety Management System (SMS) is based on the four ICAO pillars of safety policy and objectives, safety risk management, safety assurance and safety promotion. The Airbus Corporate SMS principles also integrate the end-to-end approach to safety with the Company’s suppliers and operators. This is facilitated by an appointed Corporate SMS Officer and SMS officers per function with support from a network of nominated SMS Representatives throughout the Company.

Since 2019, affiliates are also asked to regularly evaluate risks via the Company’s ERM system, as well as to regularly monitor them as part of their risk assessment process. The Company endeavours to ensure that the procedures to assess, investigate and manage allegations are well aligned throughout the Company.

Each affiliate with operational activities has in place a Board of Directors and/or a shareholders’ meeting where strategic decisions are made. Each affiliate has an Airbus supervisor who is a Member or Chairman of the Board who ensures that all Airbus requirements are considered by the affiliate’s management. At least once a year the agenda of the board will include an update on Ethics and Compliance matters (including training, awareness and any other relevant issues).

For its principal and operational minority joint ventures, the Company will work with the joint-venture partners to ensure the proper application of relevant compliance and R&S policies.

For more information on the Company’s approach to the environment, see “— 1.2.2(b) Environment”. For more information on the Company’s approach to human rights and health and safety, see “ — 1.2.4(b) Human Capital Management, Labour Relations and Human Rights” and “— 1.2.4(c) Health & Safety”.

Airbus Plan for Aviation Safety

The Airbus Plan for Aviation Safety (APAS) defines the Company’s safety strategy by identifying the top safety threats or opportunities and providing their associated key safety objectives for the safe operation of Airbus aircraft. APAS is a five-year projection, which is reviewed and updated annually. APAS is a response to EASA’s annual European Plan for Aviation Safety.

Regulatory Compliance

Product certifications are provided by the competent aviation authorities including the main civil aviation authorities and specific military authorities. Within each Division, and according to their respective functions, the Company works to ensure compliance through design and certification of products under EASA Part 21 Design Organisation Approvals (DOA); ECSS-Q ST-40-C for (Space Products) and Def-Stan 00-56 (Defence Products); manufacturing under Production Organisation Approvals (POA); monitoring of in-service safety through approved EASA Part-M Continuing Airworthiness Management Organisations (CAMO); aircraft maintenance and retrofit operations conducted in line with civil and military EASA Part 145 regulations; and training provided to flight crews, cabin crews and maintenance crews through EASA Part 147 Approved Training Organisations (ATO).

The certified organisations within the Company where specific approvals are granted by the aviation authorities, are audited and monitored by these authorities to ensure full compliance to regulatory requirements. Additional audits are also conducted by third parties as part of the quality certifications appropriate to each Division, including EN9100, EN9001, EN9110, AQAP 2110, AQAP 2210 and AQAP 2310.
Commitment to Just and Fair Culture

The product safety and quality of the Company’s products is its first priority. Each employee of the Company, at any level, shall do their utmost to ensure that product safety is never compromised and quality is considered in everything they do. This commitment is documented and endorsed with the signature of the CEO, Executive Committee Members and top management in key functions. It also includes the commitment to ensure the appropriate reporting channels are available and known to all employees, providing an atmosphere of trust and empowerment to report product safety and quality related matters.

III. Risk Management

Applying proactive risk management principles has contributed to significant improvements for the safety of flight in recent decades. This risk management approach drives the Airbus Corporate Safety Process, which has been in place for 15 years. It also supports the principles of the Airbus safety enhancement culture, going beyond compliance to certification and airworthiness duties.

IV. Initiatives

Consistent with its end-to-end approach and as part of its safety strategy outlined in the APAS, the Company has several collaborative initiatives contributing to reinforcing resilience capabilities in the air transport system and enhancing safety level of its products with all key actors.

For example, the Company is working with its supply chain to extend its safety enhancement principles with its suppliers. As part of the SMS approach, this includes specific SMS forums with the Company’s suppliers and initiatives to reinforce the collaborative approach to optimise responses to in-service feedback and reporting.

D10X (short for Air Transport Safety, Destination 10X Together) is another collaborative initiative with airlines. The aim of D10X is to propose pragmatic solutions together with operators of Airbus aircraft for the key safety issues identified within this network.

Sharing safety information is a key contributor to increasing the level of safety. First held with the Company’s customers in 1994, the annual Flight Safety Conference marked its 25th anniversary in March 2019. Another means of sharing information is through “Safety first”, the Airbus safety magazine contributing to the enhancement of safety for aircraft operations by increasing knowledge and communication on safety related topics in biannual editions since 2005. It reaches over 50,000 subscribers in the aviation community via the website safetyfirst.airbus.com and the “Safety first” app.

The Company is committed to the industry’s common objective of reinforcing resilience in the air transport system through the RAISE programme with its aim to “Reinforce Awareness In Safety for all Employees”. To support this programme, an Airbus Safety Promotion Center will open in 2020, which is a dedicated space to foster a prevention mind-set throughout the Company and encourage a deeper personal engagement with safety.

All of these initiatives and the safety enhancement culture, combined with the benefits brought by technology, leads to a continuous improvement of the safety records. This is illustrated in statistics showing that the safest aircraft are those of the third-generation and fourth-generation jets. All Airbus Fly-By-Wire family aircraft (including A320, A330/A340, A380, A350, A220 fleets) are the latest fourth-generation aircraft.

Yearly Fatal Accident Rate Per Million Flights