

NAS change to affect the safety of the NAS, the change proponent should proceed to perform an in-depth safety analysis (refer to [Section 5.2.2](#)).

5.2.2 Preparing for In-Depth Safety Analyses

If the change proponent and initial group of SMEs determine that there are safety hazards associated with a NAS change, a more in-depth safety analysis must be performed. Likewise, when using SRM to address an existing safety issue, a more in-depth approach is warranted. This decision will necessitate a larger group of SMEs and stakeholders, typically called an SRM panel. The role of the SRM panel is to objectively examine potential hazards and effects associated with the NAS change. The SRM panel only assesses the safety of the NAS change, not its suitability, validity, or necessity. SRM panels must not use panel deliberations to define what the NAS change should be or attempt to reassess the purpose or intent of the NAS change defined by the organization(s) sponsoring the NAS change.

5.2.2.1 SRM Panel Facilitator

The change proponent selects or requests an SRM panel facilitator. All SRM panels are led by a facilitator, who is a trained expert in facilitation and SRM. The role of the facilitator is to work with the change proponent to help scope the safety analysis and moderate the deliberations of the SRM panel. The SRM panel facilitator should become well-versed in the subject matter (e.g., by requesting briefings and collecting all available and relevant safety information), as necessary, before the SRM panel convenes. The facilitator will ensure all relevant information about the NAS change or existing safety issue is sent to the SRM panel members before the panel meeting.

An effective SRM panel facilitator ensures the SRM process is followed in an unbiased manner and works to achieve consensus. He or she captures the decisions of the panel members, mediates any disagreements, documents any dissenting opinions, and remains neutral throughout the process without advocating for a specific outcome. The facilitator (or his or her designee) may write the document describing the safety findings of the SRM panel meeting. Facilitator duties and responsibilities must be discussed with the change proponent and communicated to the SRM panel participants.

5.2.2.2 SRM Panel Co-Facilitator

The SRM panel co-facilitator shares the same duties and responsibilities as the panel facilitator. Like the facilitator, the co-facilitator (or his or her designee) may write the document describing the safety findings of the SRM panel meeting. Co-facilitator duties and responsibilities must be discussed with the change proponent and communicated to the SRM panel participants.

5.2.2.3 Facilitation by AJI Safety Case Leads

An AJI safety case lead may facilitate SRM efforts for NAS changes that meet any of the following criteria:

- The NAS change has a high (potentially political, economic, or financial) impact on the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), the NAS, or the flying public.
- The NAS change is the result of financial or operational decisions made by FAA executive management, cabinet-level executives, or Congress.
- The NAS change includes means to reduce any safety risks identified as part of the Top 5 Program.
- The NAS change modifies safety policy that must be incorporated in a directive.