Program for the Detection and Avoidance of Counterfeit Electronic Parts

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History

• In the 1990s the civilian aviation market faced a problem with “bogus” and counterfeit parts
  – Distributors were often blamed for insufficient oversight of products
  – FAA lacked resources to regulate distribution
  – FAA and industry worked together to develop a voluntary “higher quality standard” and auditing program
FAA Advisory Circular 00-56

• The FAA-industry committee identified potential problems in the distribution of aircraft parts [hazards]

• The committee identified solutions to resolve those hazards through proactive safety management
  – Each element of the quality standard is designed to proactively address a potential hazard
FAA Audited the Program in 2004

• Significant effect on unapproved parts
  – FAA AC 00-56 originally developed in response to concerns over “bogus” parts
  – Presence of “bad” parts in aviation part distribution chain is much lower than other supply chains [e.g. counterfeit, unapproved, etc.]

• More importantly, unapproved parts are detected in the distribution chain and reported to the FAA
• Unapproved parts detected and quarantined by distributors DO NOT GET to the air carriers!
FAA Audited the Program in 2004

- Voluntary nature and use of third-parties to monitor allows FAA to better target scarce resources at more nuanced issues
Other Safety Effects

• Benefit of program—3rd party audit of suppliers/distributors to ensure quality—has led to widespread adoption as a commercial practice
  – Air carrier (customer) reliance has prompted distributors to voluntarily adopt these higher standards

• Regular audits ensure ongoing—not one-time—compliance to voluntary standard
  – Program currently reflects 699 commercial aircraft parts distributors who are maintaining these systems
Voluntary Industry Oversight for Defense Procurement

• A voluntary industry accreditation program similar to AC 00-56A can work for defense
  – Distributors are accredited to an industry standard and listed in a database ("trusted")
  – Suppliers have systems designed to successfully detect counterfeit electronic parts
    • Systems can address other DoD priorities
  – Regular audits by third parties ensure that the supplier quality systems continue to meet expectations
  – Feedback mechanism can be used to improve the standard over time
Who is ASA?

• The Aviation Suppliers Association was founded in 1993
• Represents distributors, suppliers, surplus sales organizations, repair stations, manufacturers, airlines, operators, and other companies that provide services to the aviation parts supply industry
• Manages one of the acceptable accreditation mechanisms under FAA AC 00-56A [Voluntary Industry Distributor Accreditation Program]
• FAA relies on ASA to manage the database of accredited distributors [all accreditation mechanisms]
Questions?

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