

Editorial

Business Aviation - Always a Partner in Safety



I have maintained there is a great deal of knowledge to be leveraged by industry associations in their membership. I recently received an email from an astute member who was likely getting caught up on his reading, or couldn't sleep! I digress. He had a question about the April 2017 Transport Canada Aviation Safety Letter, specifically the guest editorial.

The editorial, written by the then Acting Chief of Technical Programs, Evaluations and Coordination Division, Standards Branch (*there is a mouthful for you!*), introduced the idea Transport Canada will update its quality management system and adopt “a process to evaluate specific safety priorities through what (they will) call *targeted inspections*”.

In my experience ‘targeted’ anything from government tends to raise eyebrows, almost as if to say “now what?”

The author opines the new quality management system “will improve our inspector education and industry outreach on things like quality assurance and corrective action plans.” The stated long-term objective is to improve the national standardization over time.

“Between April 2018 and March 2019, TC will conduct target inspections of helicopters, aerial work operators, private operators and the general aviation community.” As it relates to the GA community, the stated purpose is to provide baseline compliance data to support their plans to do more safety promotion and education with the GA community.

Any level of government gathering data from private industry raising questions, such as why? What are they going to do with the data? And if there have been no problems, why inspections? There is little doubt in aviation there is a role for the regulator; no one wants an unsafe industry.

As a matter of principle, at the CBAACAA we are always focused on safety and education. Our recently updated Operating Manual and Partners in Safety program are two examples.

‘Targeted’ inspections or not, if Transport Canada wants to partner with us to promote safety and education, they have a willing partner here.

Lets hope this initiative is more about partnership than it is about ‘targets’!

Jim Facette, President & CEO, CBAACAA