European Union Aviation Safety Agency

Categorisation of software

For surveillance (SUR) equipment, e.g. ADS-B station, there is also processing equipment (including software) for at least converting the received signal to ASTERIX. Does this mean that this equipment will always be subject to certification by EASA?

Answer

The key criteria for the equipment is the intended function that the equipment supports. Software (SW) per se is not always subject to certification but the function the SW supports. If the intended supported function is not subject to certification, then the SW is not required to undergo the certification process. In the example, an ADS-B station will support the SUR function, and thus, as per Article 5 of Regulation (EU) 2023/1768, the equipment (including the associated SW) will be subject to a declaration by a design or production organisation (DPO).

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Link:
https://www.easa.europa.eu/en/faq/139612

GM1 GE.GEN.003 'Software': It is stated that firmware is considered as software. Is this also the case for libraries, operating systems, enterprise service bus (in service-oriented architecture (SOA)), security software, and all software used for virtualisation (e.g. VMware)?

Answer

Yes, if those are part of the equipment definition that is subject to the certification/declaration process.

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