



## Organization Overview

RTCA is a not-for-profit association founded in 1935 to help ensure the safe introduction of new aviation technologies into the National Airspace System by creating minimum operational performance standards (vs. design standards) that ensure a competitive marketplace and spur innovation. RTCA was created 10 years before the establishment of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), putting the US in a leadership position, as the need for aviation safety standards during the massive growth in aviation post World War II drove the creation of ICAO as part of the United Nations.

RTCA's technical performance standards have provided the foundation for virtually every modern technical advance in aviation. These actions support research work by bringing the concepts into the deployment in the aviation and aerospace industry. RTCA-developed products serve as the basis for Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and government certification of equipment and systems used by the tens of thousands of aircraft flying daily through the world's airspace.

As a Standards Development Organization (SDO), RTCA works to develop comprehensive, industry-vetted and endorsed recommendations on technical performance standards and operational concepts for air transportation. The committee deliberations developing these documents are open to the public, functioning in a consensus-based, collaborative, peer-reviewed environment.

### RTCA Returns Value to All Who Participate

- Provides validated performance standards that drive innovative systems and equipment design, ensuring their availability in time to be referenced as a means of compliance with FAA and global regulatory requirements.
- Forges a single industry voice to the government on technical performance standards.
- Enables participants to develop standards by providing a forum in which all participants can be heard and provides the leadership to encourage the necessary give and take that is so critical in reaching a consensus opinion to which all involved can commit.
- Enables the convening of private sector participants consistent with U.S. Anti-Trust laws to work together in an open, fair and balanced partnership.
- Develops minimum performance standards that expand the marketplace of solutions for equipment and capabilities that must be certified by the FAA, and globally.
- Generates consensus-based recommendations that routinely form the basis for regulatory guidance, as well as private sector investment and development decisions.



RTCA standards are referenced in Technical Standards Orders and Advisory Circulars as a means of compliance with U.S. government regulations.

- Provides value-added services related to RTCA products, such as experienced staff expertise and training to further the effectiveness of the standards and guidance materials.
- Is recognized by ICAO as an international standards organization.
- Coordinates routinely with ICAO, EUROCAE, and other international aviation regulators, service providers and standards organizations to ensure that RTCA standards drive global standards.
- Hosts a premier annual symposium providing a venue for informing participants of advances in the art and science of aviation, and highlighting industry volunteers, bestowing awards to industry and government leaders.

**RTCA standards have withstood the test of time for 85 years!**

### **RTCA Processes Ensure Positive Outcomes**

RTCA employs rigorous, repeatable processes to ensure quality documents are produced in a timely fashion. RTCA committees have routinely stepped up to meet deadlines for standards needed to support regulations. RTCA is a member association that leverages the expertise and research of NASA, industry and government to develop minimum operational performance standards (MOPS) and minimum aviation system performance standards (MASPS), and other documents, for a variety of technologies used in modern aircraft and Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS). By using time-tested procedures and processes, we ensure member organizations receive the highest value for the time their employees spend creating standards. RTCA is a private, not-for-profit association founded in 1935 as the Radio Technical Commission for Aeronautics, now referred to simply as “RTCA”. RTCA is the premier Public-Private Partnership venue for developing consensus among diverse, competing interests on critical aviation modernization issues in an increasingly global enterprise.