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MAA-NOR's Definition and Comparison between AMC and GM

AMC - Acceptable Means of Compliance

These are preferred and proven methods for meeting specific provisions of EMARs. They offer a structured and detailed approach to demonstrating regulatory compliance and are considered the recommended pathway for doing so. AMC documents are procedural in nature, incorporating a systematic route to follow.

AMCs are not legally binding but carry significant weight in proving adherence to regulatory standards.

Organizations may choose to deviate from AMCs and adopt alternative means of compliance; however, any deviation from the recommended AMC must be justified with evidence proving its effectiveness.

Compliance alternatives must also be formally approved by MAA-NOR, with the burden of proof resting entirely on the regulated entity to demonstrate that the proposed solutions meet the requirements¹.

GM - Guidance Material

Advisory documents that provide additional context and clarity to support understanding the requirements and their intent. GMs also provide further explanations of the related AMC, including practical examples and methods.

Unlike AMCs, Guidance Material serves as non-binding advice and does not set any compliance expectations. Its purpose is purely informational, intended to support the regulated community in navigating the EMAR framework. This ensures that all participants are aligned in their approach to compliance without restricting flexibility².

Key Differences

	AMC	GM
PURPOSE	Preferred pathway to compliance	Gives advisory insight and intent
NATURE	Structured, with clear procedures	Information and guidance
FLEXIBILITY	Alternatives require MAA-NOR approval	No compliance requirements
APPROACH	Ensures consistent practices	Ensures aligned understanding

Together, AMC & GM create a balanced foundation that ensures both structured compliance and flexibility for organisations. In aviation terms: *"If the AMC is the flight plan, the GM is the crew's notes"*.

¹ The European Military Airworthiness BFD Basic Framework Document – Annex B, Statement 11, AMC. Edition 4.0

² EMAD 1 Definitions and acronyms document - Part 2 List of definitions and explanations – Term AMC & GM. Edition 1.4