

How to Assess Source Credibility

A practical method for judging whether information is reliable enough to support aviation-security decisions.



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What is source credibility?

Source credibility is the level of confidence we can place in information from a particular source.



For professional discussion and reflection • Illustrative, not exhaustive • Apply alongside appropriate organisational risk, evidence and decision-making processes



Define the information need

Credibility depends partly on whether the source can answer the question being asked.



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Identify the source

A source should be clearly identifiable before its information is assessed.



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Expertise helps indicate whether the source is qualified to address the subject.





Assess transparency

Transparent sources explain how information was collected and how conclusions were reached.



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Check accuracy

Accuracy improves when important claims can be tested against reliable evidence.





Consider currency

Information can become less useful when conditions, technology or threats change.



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Examine independence

Independent sources reduce the risk that information reflects only one organisation's interests.





Compare with other sources

Confidence increases when relevant and independent sources support the same conclusion.



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The source credibility checklist

A structured review helps ensure that important decisions are based on dependable information.

