

How to Verify Information

A practical approach to checking claims, sources and evidence in aviation security.





The claim under review

A claim should be tested before is accepted





The verification process

Verification involves a series of checks rather than one quick search



Preserve the original source

Keep a traceable record of what you found and when you found it



-  Web address or document
-  Publication date
-  Author or organisation
-  Version accessed
-  Copy or screenshot



Identify who produced it

The source matters because expertise, access and interest shape information



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

Check the date and context

Information may change meaning when it is taken out of its original time or setting.



Inspect the content

Look closely at what the information shows, includes and leaves out



Separate fact from interpretation

Keep direct evidence separate from what it appears to mean

FACT

What can be directly observed or supported?



INTERPRETATION

What does the information appear to suggest?



ASSUMPTIONS

What are we adding without clear evidence?



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Test location and time

Check whether the information matches the claimed placed, date and circumstances



Corroborate independently

Repeated copies of the same claim do not create independent confirmation



Examine bias and incentives

Ask what motivates the source and what incentives may influence it



Organisational
interests



Commercial
pressures



Political
objectives



Personal
assumptions



Favourable
evidence



Existing
views

Look for gaps and alternatives

A strong review asks what is missing and what else could explain the evidence



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Record confidence and limitations

A useful research record shows what is known, what is uncertain and what still needs verification





The verification checklist

Before relying on information, confirm that the verification record is complete



Good verification improves the quality of security judgement. It does not guarantee certainty.