

SORA

Specific operation risk assessment

Διάλεξη Ναυάρχου (ε.α.) K. Χρηστίδη

Your safety is our mission.

An Agency of the European Union 

ΣΕ ΠΟΙΟΥΣ ΚΙΝΔΥΝΟΥΣ ΑΠΕΥΘΥΝΕΤΑΙ Η ΜΕΘΟΔΟΛΟΓΙΑ SORA



ΠΡΟΣΤΑΣΙΑ ΑΠΟ

- Θανάσιμους τραυματισμούς σε τρίτους στο έδαφος
- Θανατηφόρα τραύματα σε τρίτους στον αέρα

ΕΜΠΛΕΚΟΜΕΝΑ
ΠΡΟΣΩΠΑ
(Λαμβάνουν μέρος στην επιχείρηση UAV)



Προστατεύεται με τον καθορισμό ασφαλών λειτουργικών διαδικασιών

ΜΗ εμπλεκομένα
Πρόσωπα



Προστατεύεται από "μετριασμούς" και ασφάλεια που εξάγονται από SORA

Διάλεξη Ναυάρχου (ε.α.) Κ. Χρηστίδη

ΣΕ ΠΟΙΟΥΣ ΚΙΝΔΥΝΟΥΣ ΔΕΝ ΑΠΕΥΘΥΝΕΤΑΙ Η ΜΕΘΟΔΟΛΟΓΙΑ SORA



Risk to industrial infrastructure



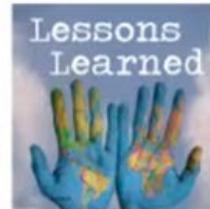
Environmental risk



ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΗ ΜΕΘΟΔΟΛΟΓΙΑΣ SORA (2.0 ➔ 2.5)

ΕΞΕΛΙΞΗ SORA

SORA
2.0



Published by JARUS in Jan 2019
Adopted by EASA in Oct 2019



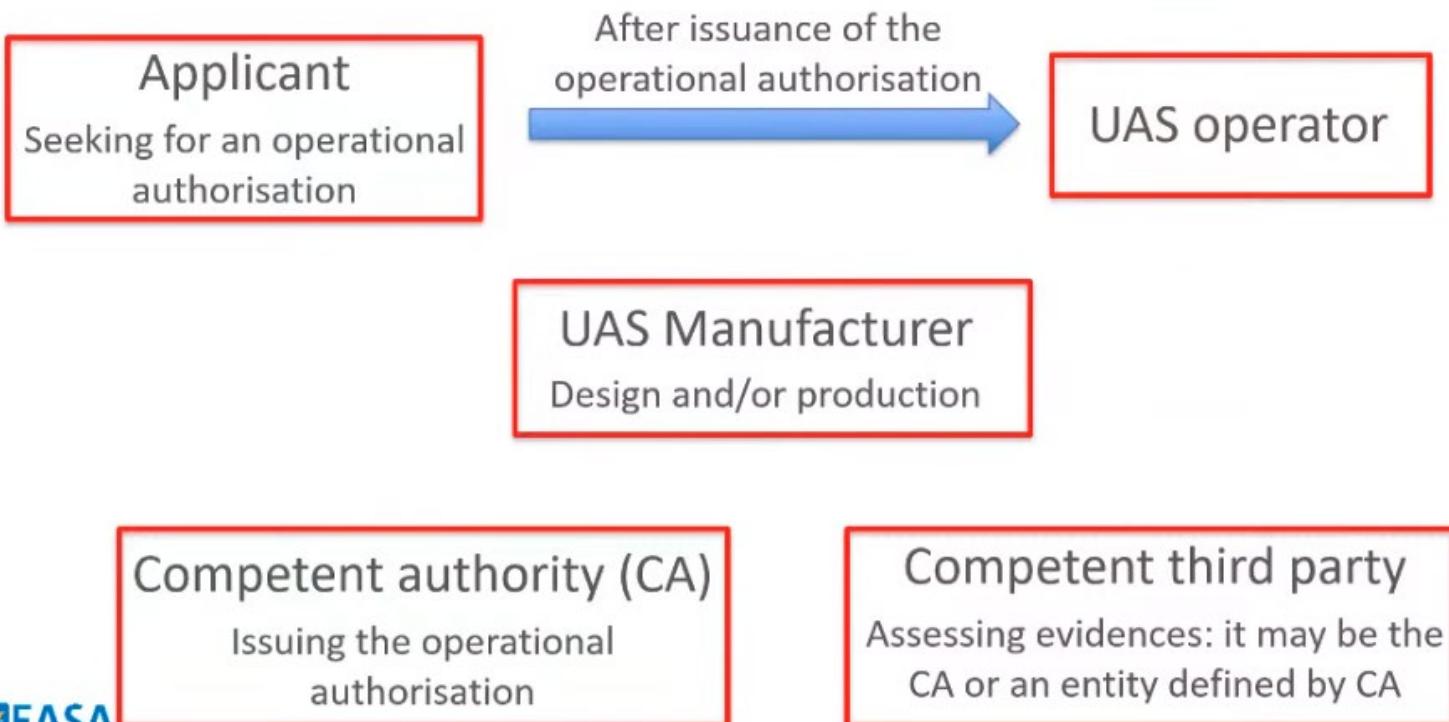
SORA
2.5

Under consultation until
6 March 2023
<http://jarus-rpas.org/jarus-external-consultation-sora-version>

Full compatible with SORA 2.0,
except containment, where requirement has been lowered

ΕΜΠΛΕΚΟΜΕΝΟΙ ΠΑΙΚΤΕΣ SORA

Who are the SORA actors



ΔΟΜΗ SORA 2.0

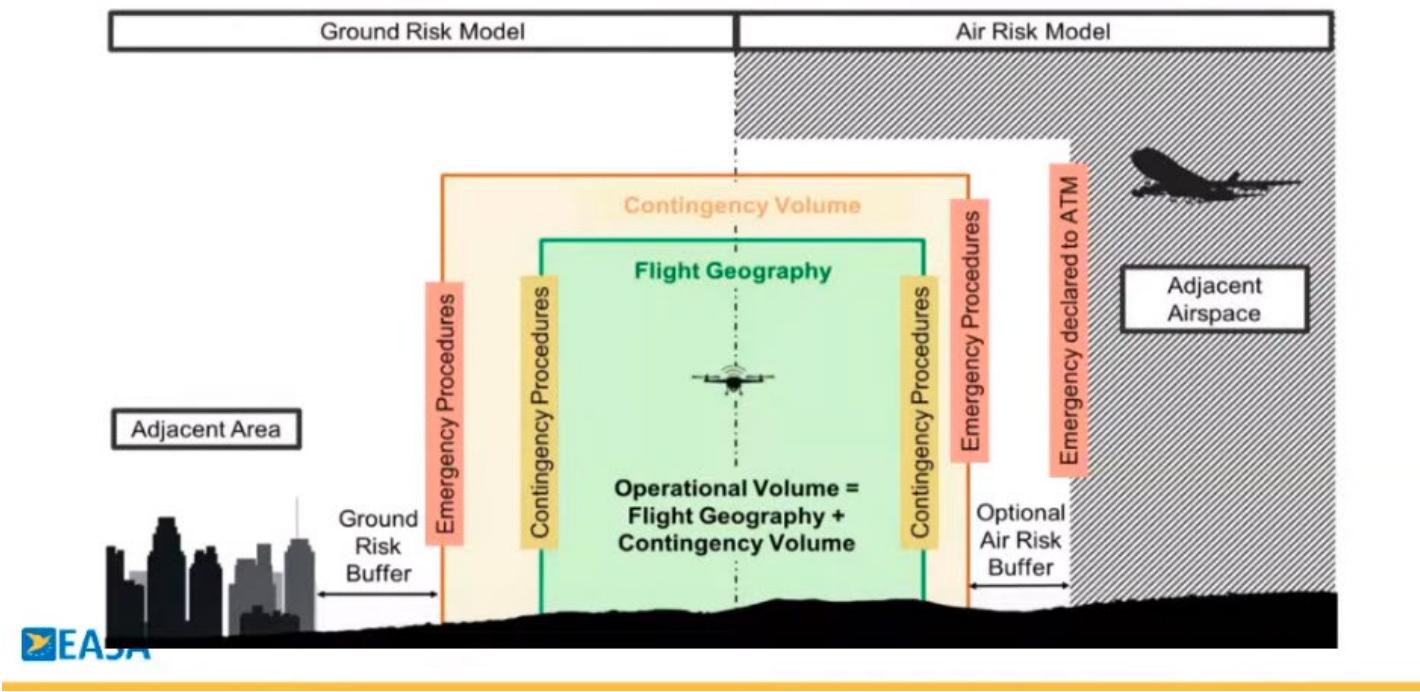
SORA 2.0 Structure (AMC 1 Art. 11 Reg 2019/947)

- Main body: description of the SORA process
- Annex A: *Conops*, New version was consulted by JARUS in March 2022. Final version in development. It will be renamed into ‘Operator manual’
- Annex B: Ground risk mitigations
- Annex C: Air risk strategic mitigations
- Annex D: Air risk tactical mitigations
- Annex E: operational safety objectives



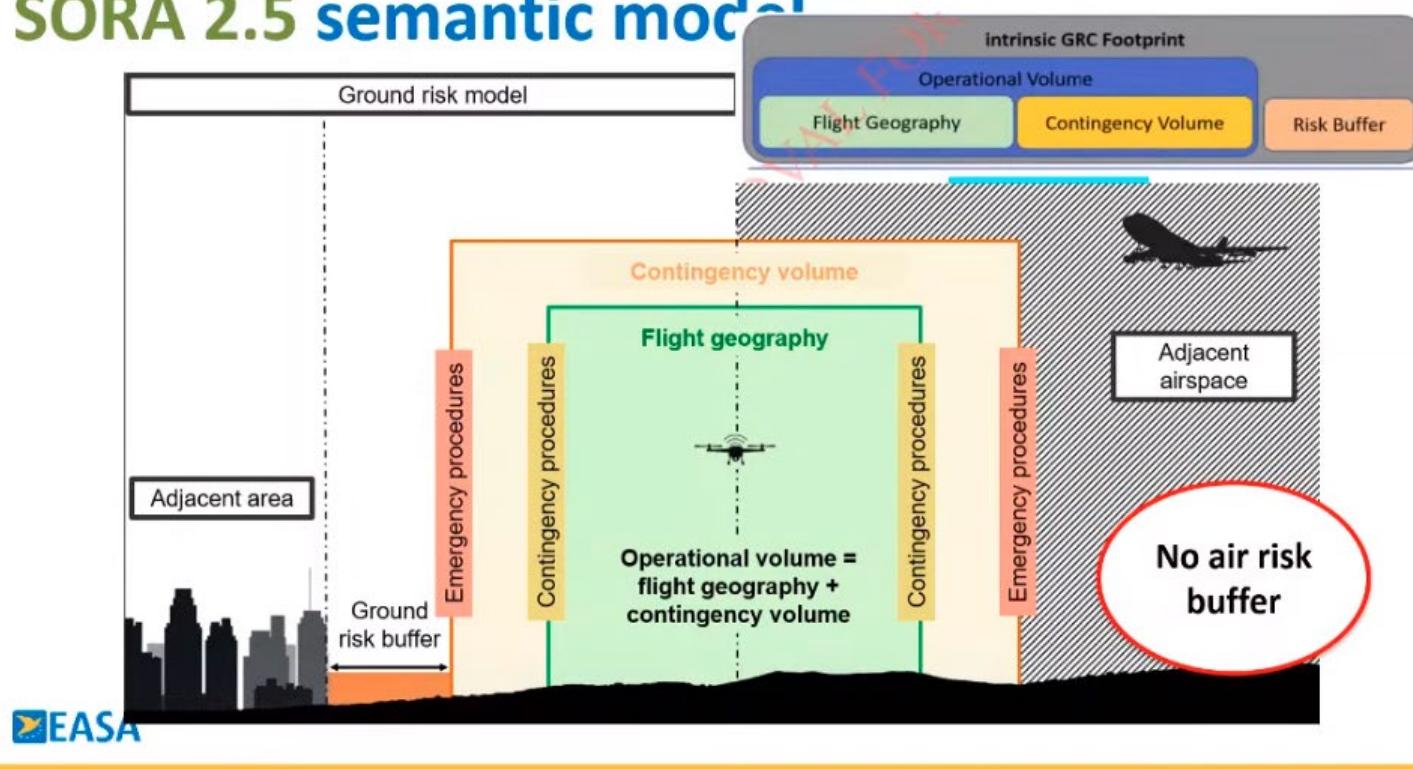
ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΗ ΜΕΘΟΔΟΛΟΓΙΑΣ SORA

SORA 2.0 semantic model



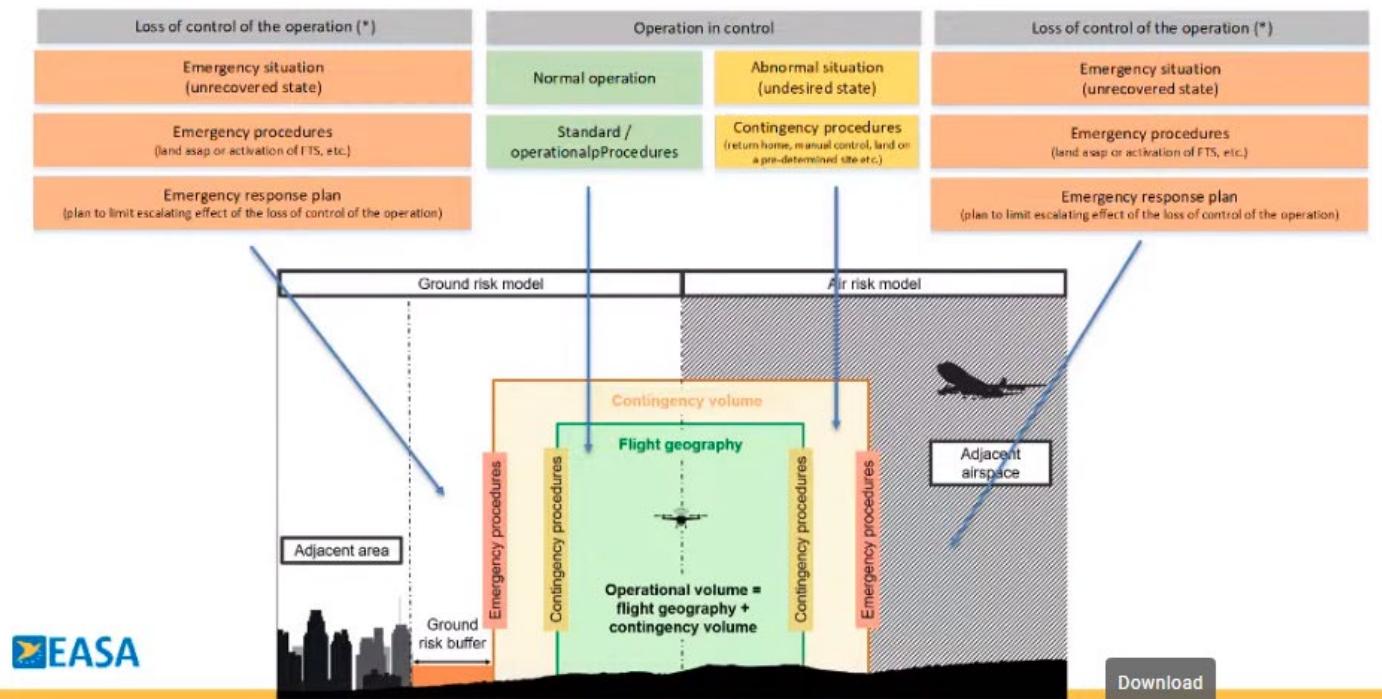
ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΗ ΜΕΘΟΔΟΛΟΓΙΑΣ SORA

SORA 2.5 semantic model



ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΗ ΜΕΘΟΔΟΛΟΓΙΑΣ SORA

SORA 2.5 semantic model



ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΗ ΜΕΘΟΔΟΛΟΓΙΑΣ SORA

sli.do #SORA2023 passcode: bvwlnb

SORA 2.0 Step#1

CONOPS description

- ✓ Applicant to collect and provide the relevant technical, operational and system information needed to assess the risk associated with the intended operation.
- ✓ It is the foundation for all other activities.

**What you want to do, where you want to fly,
which UAS you intend to use**

ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΗ ΜΕΘΟΔΟΛΟΓΙΑΣ SORA

sli.do #SORA2023 passcode: bvwlnb

SORA 2.0 Step#1

CONOPS description

- ✓ Applicant to collect and provide the relevant technical, operational and system information needed to assess the risk associated with the intended operation.
- ✓ It is the foundation for all other activities.

**What you want to do, where you want to fly,
which UAS you intend to use**

Outcome

- ✓ Description of the intended operation.
- ✓ Familiarisation with the documents to be provided to the competent authority to apply for the operational authorisation.



ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΗ ΜΕΘΟΔΟΛΟΓΙΑΣ SORA

sli.do #SORA2023 passcode: bvwlnb

SORA 2.0 Step #1 lesson learned

The title (CONOPS) create confusion

- CONOPS has different meaning in different domains
- SORA Annex A is also called CONOPS

Changes in Step #1 of SORA 2.5

- Step #1 renamed into 'Documentation of the proposed operation(s)
- SORA Annex A renamed in 'operator manual'

NO NEED TO REVISE THE DOCUMENTATION OF OPERATIONS APPROVED USING SORA 2.0
OR PREVIOUSLY APPROVED DOCUMENTATION

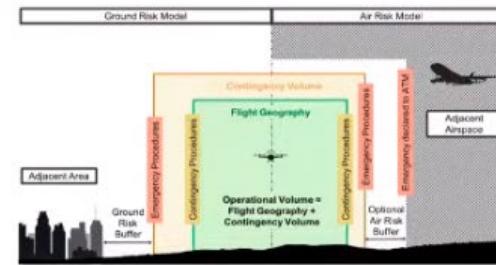
ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΗ ΜΕΘΟΔΟΛΟΓΙΑΣ SORA

sli.do #SORA2023 passcode: bvwlnb

SORA Step #2 – Ground risk - Define size of operational area

Outcome

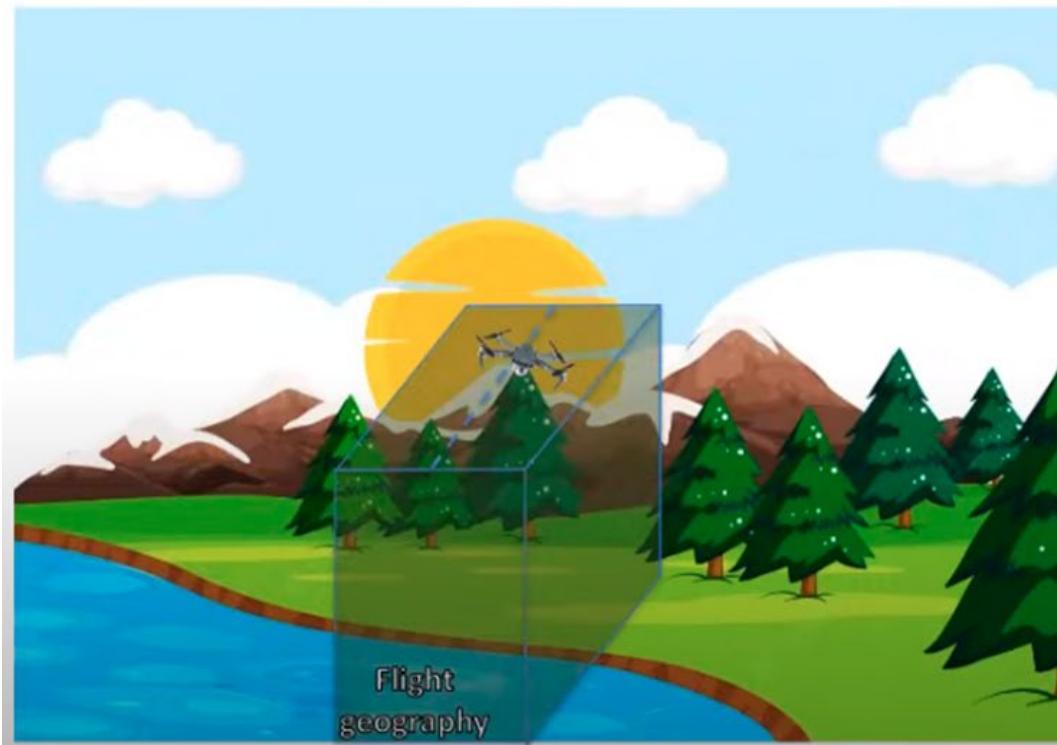
- a) identification of the size of the footprint;
- b) identification of the iGRC (intrinsic ground risk class) of the footprint;
- c) Documentation of information and references used to complete this Step.



Initial ground risk class determination

ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΗ ΜΕΘΟΔΟΛΟΓΙΑΣ SORA

SORA Step #2 – Ground risk - Define size of operational area



Flight geography: where the drone should fly in normal conditions

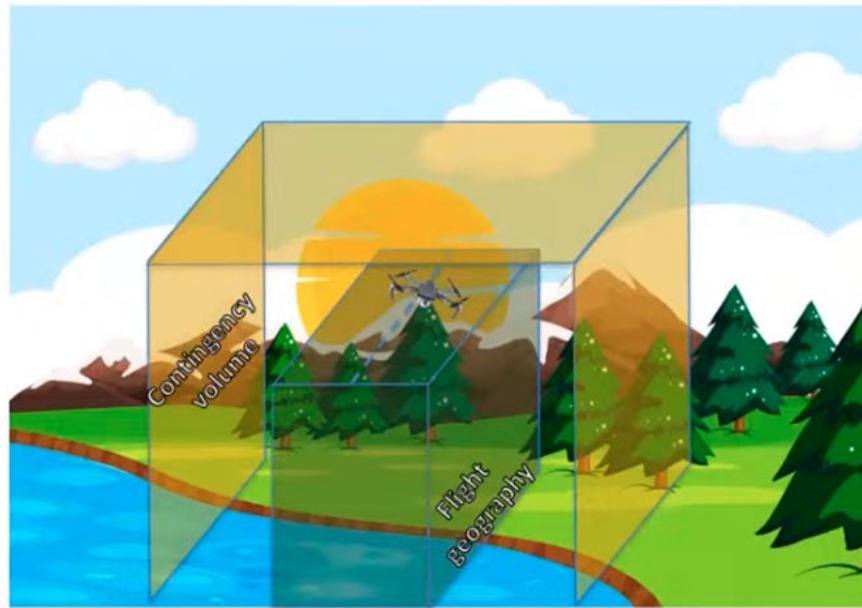
Determination of flight geography

Where the operation takes places and:

- Navigation System Error
- Flight Technical Error
- Path Definition Error

ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΗ ΜΕΘΟΔΟΛΟΓΙΑΣ SORA

SORA Step #2 – Ground risk - Define size of operational area



Contingency volume: where the drone may fly in case of abnormal conditions.

Execution of contingency procedures to immediately return the UA into the flight geography

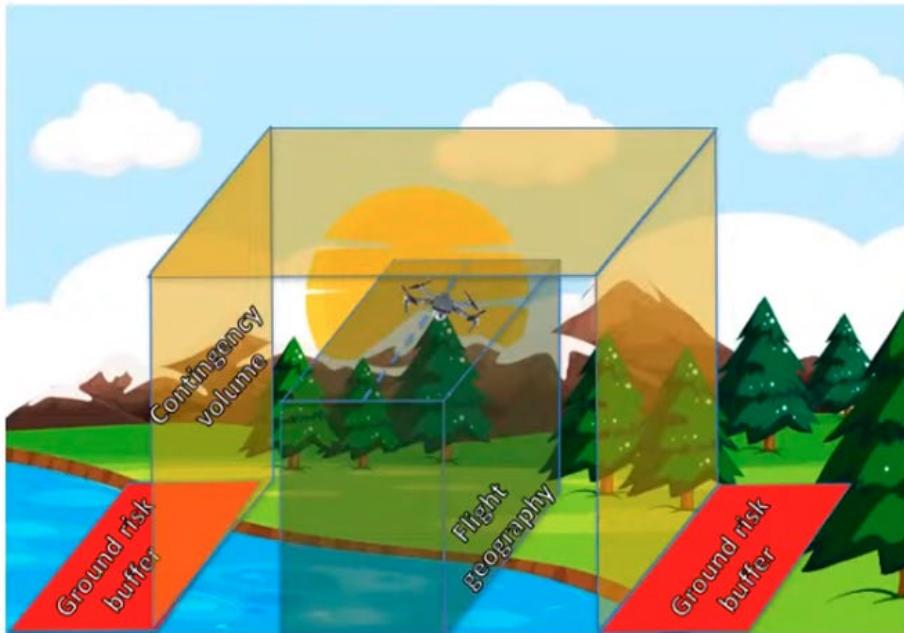
Determination of contingency volume

Range flew by the drone considering the:

- reaction time
- time to execute contingency manoeuvres

ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΗ ΜΕΘΟΔΟΛΟΓΙΑΣ SORA

SORA Step #2 – Ground risk - Define size of operational area



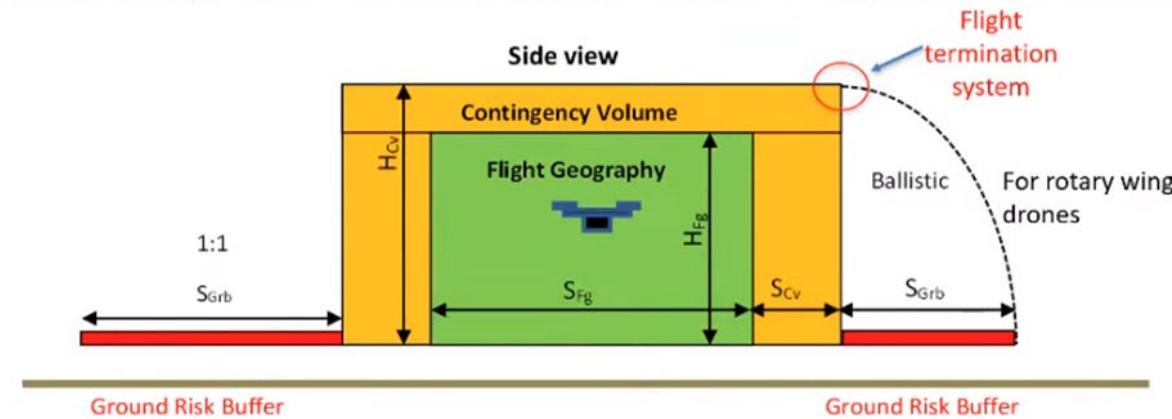
Ground risk buffer: If an operation loses control in a way that the UA exits the operational volume, it shall be contained to end its flight inside the ground risk buffer

Determination of ground risk buffer

- 1:1 distance
- Ballistic descend

ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΗ ΜΕΘΟΔΟΛΟΓΙΑΣ SORA

SORA Step #2 - Determine size of ground risk buffer



1:1 rule or a more accurate ground risk buffer value may be claimed based on an analysis taking into account malfunctions or failures and the following elements when the containment system is activated:

- Meteorological conditions (e.g. wind),
- UAS latencies
- UA behavior when activating a technical containment measure (e.g. parachute deployment),
- UA performance.

ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΗ ΜΕΘΟΔΟΛΟΓΙΑΣ SORA

Population density (SORA 2.0)

Identify the maximum population density value of the



- Controlled ground area →
 - protected area with negligible probability of presence of uninvolved person
- Sparsely populated
- Populated
- Assembly of people →



ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΗ ΜΕΘΟΔΟΛΟΓΙΑΣ SORA

Fictional example



Manna delivery
MTOM: 23kg
Payload: 2,25kg
Length: 2m

Actual local conditions
may be different!!!

- Sparsely populated area (e.g. max pop density 200 ppl/km²)
- Populated area (e.g. max pop density 3.000 ppl/km²)
- Busy open shopping area, assembly of people (e.g. max pop density 250.000 ppl/km²)

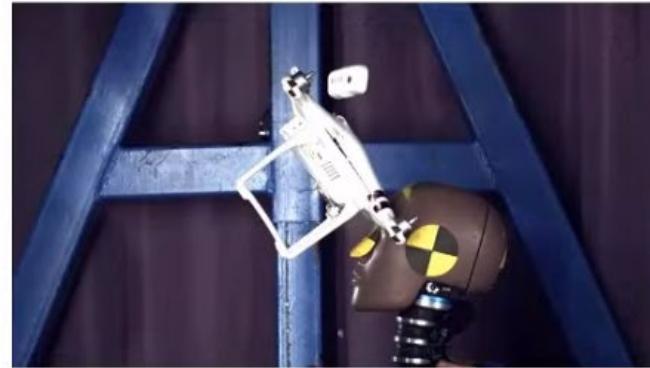
ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΗ ΜΕΘΟΔΟΛΟΓΙΑΣ SORA

SORA Step #2 - Assessing the ground risk

sli.do #SORA2023 passcode: bvwlnb

Is the weight of the drone the main factor?

In case of impact with a person, once the energy transmitted by the drone is higher than a lethal threshold (order of 80J), the most important parameter becomes the size of the drone

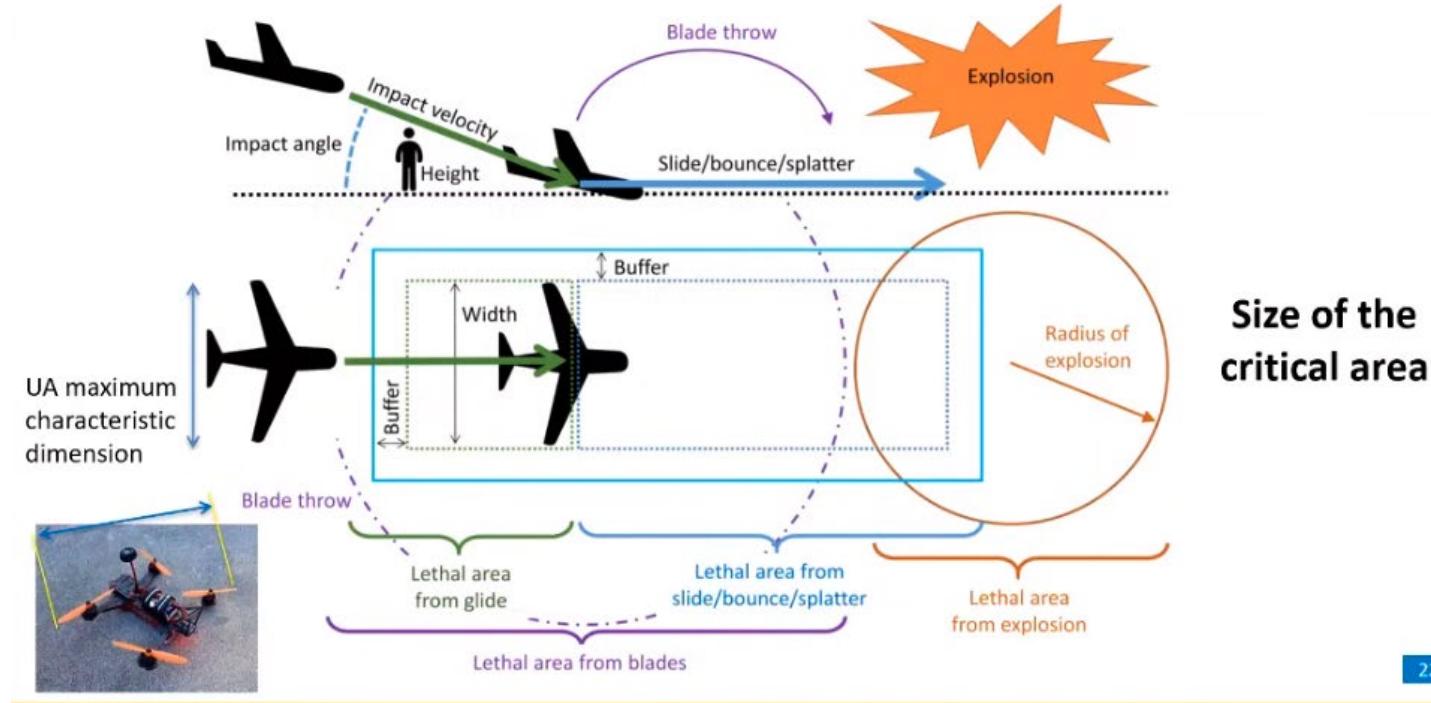


21

ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΗ ΜΕΘΟΔΟΛΟΓΙΑΣ SORA

sli.do #SORA2023 passcode: bvwlnb

SORA Step #2 - Assessing the ground risk



ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΗ ΜΕΘΟΔΟΛΟΓΙΑΣ SORA

sli.do #SORA2023 passcode: bvwlnt

SORA 2.0 Step#2

Determination of the intrinsic UAS ground risk class (GRC)

Intrinsic UAS ground risk class				
Max UAS characteristics dimension	1 m / approx. 3 ft	3 m / approx. 10 ft	8 m / approx. 25 ft	>8 m / approx. 25 ft
Typical kinetic energy expected	< 700 J (approx. 529 ft lb)	< 34 kJ (approx. 25 000 ft lb)	< 1 084 kJ (approx. 800 000 ft lb)	> 1 084 kJ (approx. 800 000 ft lb)
Operational scenarios				
VLOS/BVLOS over a controlled ground area ³	1	2	3	4
VLOS over a sparsely populated area	2	3	4	5
BVLOS over a sparsely populated area	3	4	5	6
VLOS over a populated area	4	5	6	8
BVLOS over a populated area	5	6	8	10
VLOS over an assembly of people	7	Operation not possible in the specific category		
BVLOS over an assembly of people	8	Operation not possible in the specific category		

iGRC table in SORA 2.0



ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΗ ΜΕΘΟΔΟΛΟΓΙΑΣ SORA

sli.do #SORA2023 passcode: bvwlnb

SORA 2.0 Step #2 lesson learned

1. Qualitative population density values does not help in having an harmonized approach among states
2. It is not clear under which conditions VLOS may play a role in the ground risk determination, what are the requirements for the VLOS bonus?
3. Typical energy difficult to evaluate
4. Very small drones, may reach a GRC of 8
5. Fixed values in the iGRC table: A small increase in the UA dimension (e.g from 3 m to 3.1 m) may classify immediately the UA in the higher GRC
6. The identification of the adjacent area is only required in step 9 and there  are no indications on how to calculate its size

ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΗ ΜΕΘΟΔΟΛΟΓΙΑΣ SORA

SORA 2.5 Step#2

1. Quantitative ground risk assessment

Intrinsic UAS Ground Risk Class						
Maximum dimension	UA characteristic	1m / approx. 3ft	3m / approx. 10ft	8m / approx. 25ft	20m / approx. 65ft	40m / approx. 130ft
Maximum cruise speed		25 m/s	35 m/s	75 m/s	150 m/s	200 m/s
Maximum population density (ppl/km ²)	Controlled ground area	1	2	3	4	5
	< 25	3	4	5	6	7
	< 250	4	5	6	7	8
	< 2,500	5	6	7	8	9
	< 25,000	6	7	8	9	10
	< 250,000	7	8	9	10	11
	> 250,000	7	9	Not part of SORA		



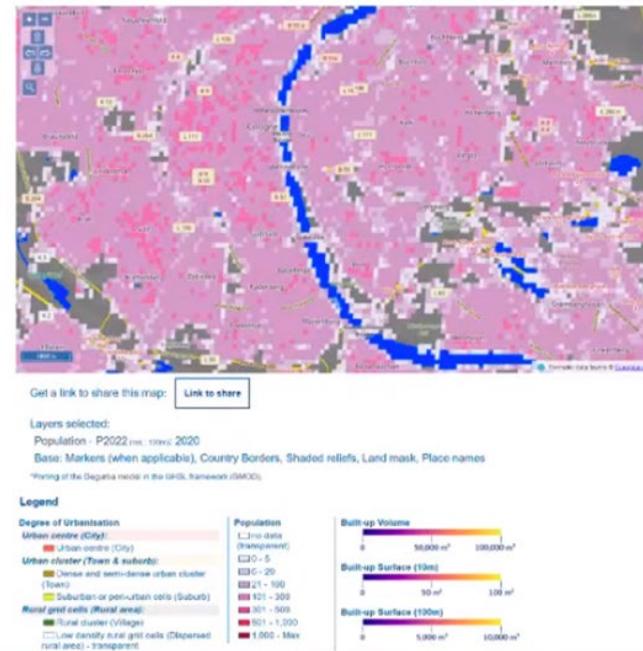
iGRC table in SORA 2.5

2. VLOS removed and identified as a mitigation for the ground risk (see slide on M1)
3. Typical energy replaced by max cruise speed
4. UAS with max weight <250g and max cruise speed <25m/s are always classified GRC 1
5. Possibility to calculate the actual critical area of the UA and compare with those identified in Annex B

ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΗ ΜΕΘΟΔΟΛΟΓΙΑΣ SORA

Where can I get the population density data?

- Each state may have their source
- In absence the [Global Human Settlement - Visualisation - European Commission \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/population-settlement-statistics/visualisation) may be used
- EASA is working to define the minimum requirement for a dynamic population density map service providers



ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΗ ΜΕΘΟΔΟΛΟΓΙΑΣ SORA

How the GRC was calculated in SORA 2.5?

sli.do #SORA2023 passcode: bvwlN

- A more refined ground risk model was developed by JARUS
- New **Annex F** provides all details and justification for the GRC
- Normally, applicants are not required to consult Annex F, unless they would like to propose to the NAA some more sophisticated solutions tailoring the model to their operation

A special thank for leading the development of the ground risk model



Terrence Martin (PhD)
Revolution airspace Australia

Professor at Queensland University of Technology



ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΗ ΜΕΘΟΔΟΛΟΓΙΑΣ SORA

Is there an increase of the iGRC of 1 point between SORA 2.0 and SORA 2.5?

Intrinsic UAS Ground Risk Class						
Maximum dimension	UA characteristic	1m / approx. 3ft	3m / approx. 10ft	8m / approx. 25ft	20m / approx. 65ft	40m / approx. 130ft
Maximum cruise speed		25 m/s	35 m/s	75 m/s	150 m/s	200 m/s
Maximum population density (ppl/km ²)	Controlled ground area	1	2	3	4	5
	< 25	3	4	5	6	7
	< 250	4	5	6	7	8
	< 2,500	5	6	7	8	9
	< 25,000	6	7	8	9	10
	< 250,000	7	8	9	10	11
	> 250,000	7	9	Not part of SORA		

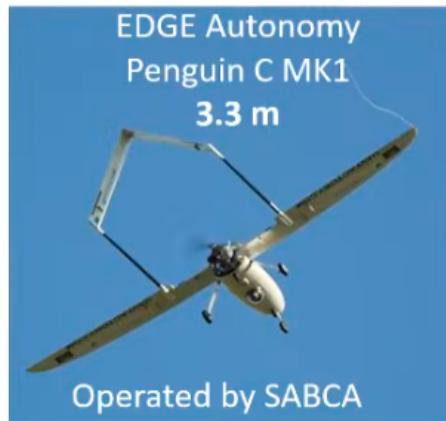
No if you consider:

- Additional flexibility in applying mitigations in step #3 and Annex B (e.g. shelter)
- Possibility to calculate the actual critical area of the UA (e.g. if using a UA of 4m, maybe the critical area is equivalent to the one of a 3m UA)

ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΗ ΜΕΘΟΔΟΛΟΓΙΑΣ SORA

SORA 2.5 - Example of calculation actual critical area

sli.do #SORA2023 passcode: bwwlnb



Applying Annex F formula for actual critical area it results:

Wingspan	3.3
MTOW	23
Impact speed	32
Impact angle	35
ground friction (friction coeff)	0.65
Coeff of restitution	0.71
Heigh person	1.8
Radius person	0.3
v horizontal	26.21
d glide	2.57
rD	1.95
v non lethal	5.02
t safe	2.13
d slide reduced	25.18
circular end	11.95
Actual Critical Area	120.18

Actual critical area is lower than the one identified for a 3m UA in SORA 2.5 Annex B



Maximum characteristic dimension (m)	1	3	8	20	40
Critical area (m ²)	8	135	1,350	13,500	135,000

The 3m column
can be used!

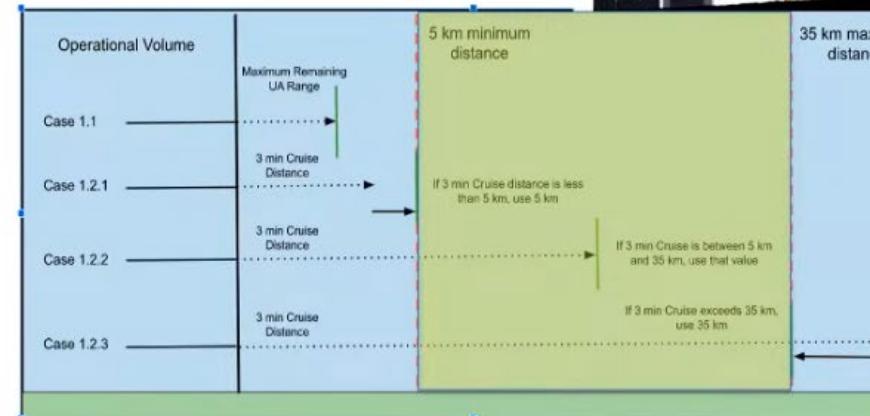
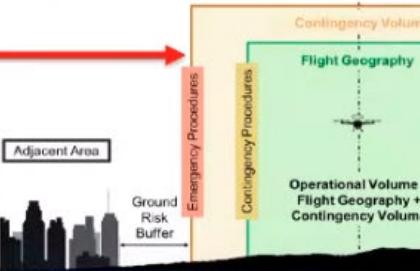
ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΗ ΜΕΘΟΔΟΛΟΓΙΑΣ SORA

SORA 2.5 Step #2 – Size of the adjacent area

sli.do #SORA2023 passcode: bwrlr

Range of 3 minutes flight at
max cruise speed, however:

- never less than 5 km or
- more than 35 km



ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΗ ΜΕΘΟΔΟΛΟΓΙΑΣ SORA

How we reconcile SORA 2.0 with SORA 2.5 iGRC?

sli.do #SORA2023 passcode: bv

Quantitative Population Value (ppl/km ²)	< 25	< 250	< 2,500	< 25,000	< 250,000	> 250,000
Qualitative Description	Rural	Sparsely Populated	Suburban	Urban	Dense Urban	Assembly of people 10,000 is the minimum number of people to qualify for assembly of people

Populated area

ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΗ ΜΕΘΟΔΟΛΟΓΙΑΣ SORA

Fictional example SORA 2.0



Manna delivery

Length: 2m

Intrinsic UAS ground risk class

Max UAS characteristics dimension	1 m / approx. 3 ft	3 m / approx. 10 ft	8 m / approx. 25 ft	>8 m / approx. 25 ft
Typical kinetic energy expected	< 700 J (approx. 529 ft lb)	< 34 kJ (approx. 25 000 ft lb)	< 1 084 kJ (approx. 800 000 ft lb)	> 1 084 kJ (approx. 800 000 ft lb)
Operational scenarios				
VLOS/BVLOS over a controlled ground area ³	1	2	3	4
VLOS over a sparsely populated area	2	3	4	5
BVLOS over a sparsely populated area	3	4	5	6
VLOS over a populated area	4	5	6	8
BVLOS over a populated area	5	6	8	10
VLOS over an assembly of people	7			
BVLOS over an assembly of people	8			
Operation not possible in the specific category				

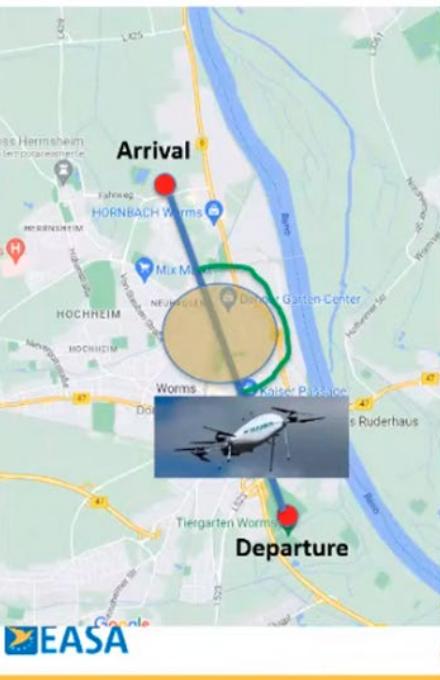
● Sparsely populated area (e.g. max pop density 200 ppl/km²)

● Populated area (e.g. max pop density 3.000 ppl/km²)

● Busy open shopping area, assembly of people (e.g. max pop density 250.000 ppl/km²)

ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΗ ΜΕΘΟΔΟΛΟΓΙΑΣ SORA

Fictional example SORA 2.0



Intrinsic GRC 6



Manna delivery

Length: 2m

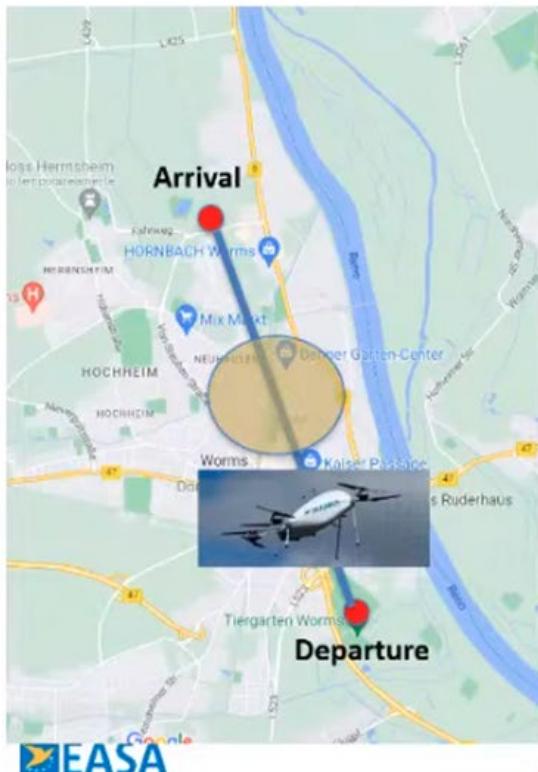
	Max UAS characteristics dimension 1 m / approx. 3 ft	3 m / approx. 10 ft	8 m / approx. 25 ft	>8 m / approx. 25 ft
Typical kinetic energy expected	< 700 J (approx. 529 ft lb)	< 34 kJ (approx. 25 000 ft lb)	< 1 084 kJ (approx. 800 000 ft lb)	> 1 084 kJ (approx. 800 000 ft lb)
Operational scenarios				
VLOS/BVLOS over a controlled ground area ³	1	2	3	4
VLOS over a sparsely populated area	2	3	4	5
BVLOS over a sparsely populated area	3	4	5	6
VLOS over a populated area	4	5	6	8
BVLOS over a populated area	5	6	8	10
VLOS over an assembly of people	7			
BVLOS over an assembly of people	8			

Operation not possible in the specific category

- Sparsely populated area (e.g. max pop density 200 ppl/km²)
- Populated area (e.g. max pop density 3.000 ppl/km²)
- Busy open shopping area, assembly of people (e.g. max pop density 250.000 ppl/km²)

ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΗ ΜΕΘΟΔΟΛΟΓΙΑΣ SORA

Fictional example SORA 2.5



EASA



Manna delivery

Length: 2m

Intrinsic UAS Ground Risk Class						
Maximum dimension	UA characteristic	1m / approx. 3ft	3m / approx. 10ft	8m / approx. 25ft	20m / approx. 65ft	40m / approx. 130ft
Maximum cruise speed		25 m/s	35 m/s	75 m/s	150 m/s	200 m/s
Maximum population density (ppl/km ²)	Controlled ground area	1	2	3	4	5
	< 25	3	4	5	6	7
	< 250	4	5	6	7	8
	< 2,500	5	6	7	8	9
	< 25,000	6	7	8	9	10
	< 250,000	7	8	9	10	11
> 250,000						Not part of SORA

- Sparsely populated area (e.g. max pop density 200 ppl/km²)
- Populated area (e.g. max pop density 3.000 ppl/km²)
- Busy open shopping area, assembly of people (e.g. max pop density 250.000 ppl/km²)

ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΗ ΜΕΘΟΔΟΛΟΓΙΑΣ SORA

SORA Step#3 Final GRC Determination

→ Reduce the intrinsic risk of a person being struck by the UA

Outcome

- (a) Identification of the mitigations applied to reduce the iGRC for the footprint;
- (b) Identification of the applicable mitigations requirements;
- (c) Identification of the final GRC;
- (d) Collection of information and references used to substantiate the application of the ground risk mitigation(s).

ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΗ ΜΕΘΟΔΟΛΟΓΙΑΣ SORA

SORA 2.0 Step#3 Final GRC Determination

Mitigation Sequence	Mitigations for ground risk	Robustness		
		Low/None	Medium	High
1	M1 — Strategic mitigations for ground risk ¹	0: None -1: Low	-2	-4
2	M2 — Effects of ground impact are reduced ²	0	-1	-2
3	M3 — An emergency response plan (ERP) is in place, the UAS operator is validated and effective	1	0	-1

Declaration Declaration supported by data Third party verification

This is possible only for very special cases

For each point of credit the applicant needs to demonstrate a reduction of 1 order of magnitude in the population density at risk

SORA Annex B provides details for the ground risk mitigation requirements

ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΗ ΜΕΘΟΔΟΛΟΓΙΑΣ SORA

SORA Step#3 – M1 strategic mitigation

Reduce the risk of a person being struck by the UA

Depending on the weight of the drone
people may be protected by a **shelter**



Operation may be conducted during
night when most of people are home

ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΗ ΜΕΘΟΔΟΛΟΓΙΑΣ SORA

SORA Step#3 – M1 strategic mitigation

Adjacent area
Ground risk buffer
Contingency volume
Flight geography
Contingency volume
Ground risk buffer
Adjacent area



ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΗ ΜΕΘΟΔΟΛΟΓΙΑΣ SORA

SORA Step#3 – M1 strategic mitigation



ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΗ ΜΕΘΟΔΟΛΟΓΙΑΣ SORA

SORA Step#3 – M2 technical mitigation

Several options

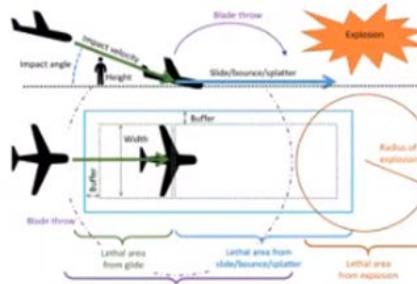
Reduce impact energy



Frangibility



Reduce critical area



Stall
descend
Spiral
descend

ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΗ ΜΕΘΟΔΟΛΟΓΙΑΣ SORA

SORA 2.0 Step #3 - Lesson learned

- Reduction of 4 points for M1 high is unrealistic
- Through an emergency response plan is possible to reduce the number of people at risk, only in very special cases
- Annex B is inflexible (e.g. shelter cannot be used for low robustness)

ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΗ ΜΕΘΟΔΟΛΟΓΙΑΣ SORA

SORA 2.5 Ground risk mitigations

Mitigations for ground risk	Level of Robustness		
	Low	Medium	High
M1(A) - Strategic mitigations for ground risk	-1	-2	-3
M1(B) - Visual Line of Sight (VLOS) - avoid flying over people	-1	N/A	N/A
M2 - Effects of UA impact dynamics are reduced	0	-1	-2/-3

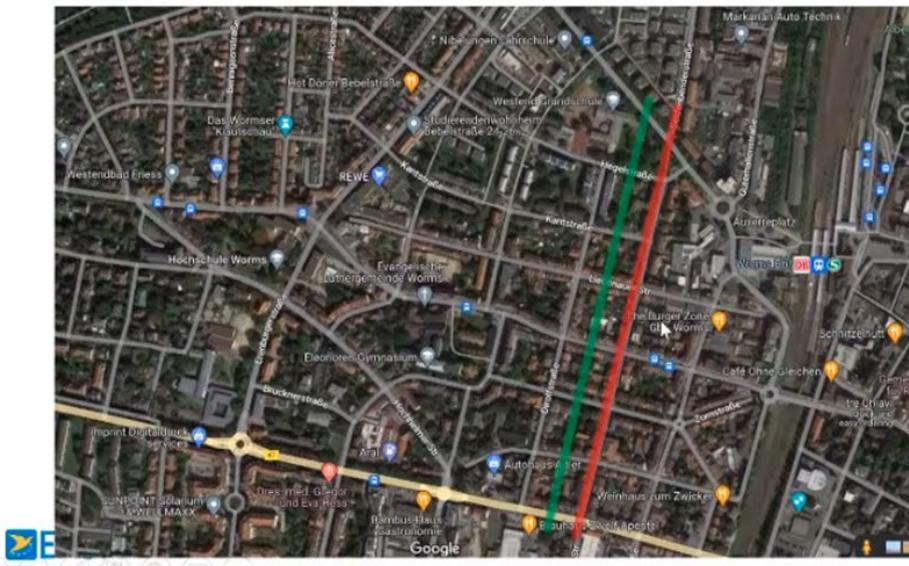
- M3 mitigation removed. Requirement for emergency response plan included in OSO 8
- VLOS is a mitigation meaning that the remote pilot is able to locate people on ground and avoid to fly over people

More flexibility in Annex B.

Applicant may propose any approach: the final GRC will be the one resulting from the actual population density at risk in the operational area and the actual critical area

ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΗ ΜΕΘΟΔΟΛΟΓΙΑΣ SORA

Fictional example SORA 2.5 How to apply M1

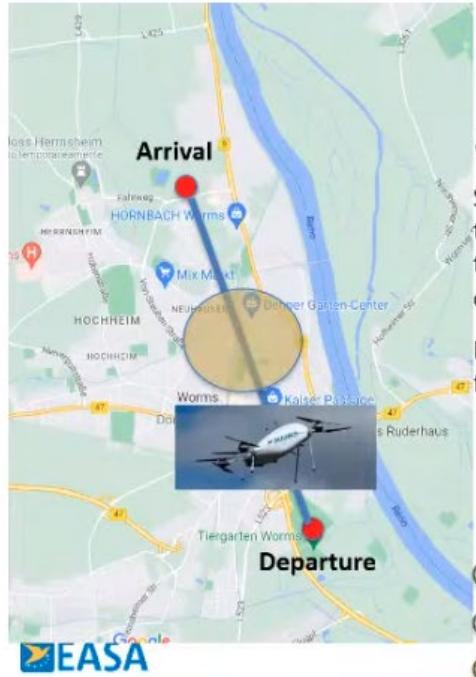


To use shelter factor:

- Red line: avoid to fly directly over a street where people may be present
- Green line: Cross street perpendicularly as much as possible

ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΗ ΜΕΘΟΔΟΛΟΓΙΑΣ SORA

Fictional example SORA 2.5 How to apply M1



How many persons are actually exposed to the risk?

Selecting an operational area where the population density at risk is less than 2.500 ppl/km², qualifies for 1 credit.

If it is less than 250 ppl/km² qualifies for 2 credits and so on



Manna delivery
Length: 2m

Intrinsic UAS Ground Risk Class						
Maximum dimension	UA characteristic	1m / approx. 3ft	3m / approx. 10ft	8m / approx. 25ft	20m / approx. 65ft	40m / approx. 130ft
Maximum cruise speed	Controlled ground area	1	2			
	< 25	3	4	5	6	7
	< 250	4	5	6	7	8
	< 2,500	5	6	7	8	9
	< 25,000	6	7	8	9	10
	< 250,000	7	8			
	> 250,000	7	9			
	2.450 ppl/km ²					
	3.000 ppl/km ²					
	Not part of SORA					

● Sparsely populated area (e.g. max pop density 200 ppl/km²)

○ Populated area (e.g. max pop density 3.000 ppl/km²)

● Busy open shopping area, assembly of people (e.g. max pop density 250.000 ppl/km²)

ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΗ ΜΕΘΟΔΟΛΟΓΙΑΣ SORA

SORA 2.0 Step#3 – determination of the final GRC

	Intrinsic UAS ground risk class			
Max UAS characteristics dimension	1 m / approx. 3 ft	3 m / approx. 10 ft	8 m / approx. 25 ft	>8 m / approx. 25 ft
Typical kinetic energy expected	< 700 J (approx. 529 ft lb)	< 34 kJ (approx. 25 000 ft lb)	< 1 084 kJ (approx. 800 000 ft lb)	> 1 084 kJ (approx. 800 000 ft lb)
Operational scenarios				
VLOS/BVLOS over a controlled ground area ³	1	2	3	4
VLOS over a sparsely populated area	2	3	4	5
BVLOS over a sparsely populated area	3	4	5	6
VLOS over a populated area	4	5	6	8
BVLOS over a populated area	5	6	8	10
VLOS over an assembly of people	7	Operation not possible in the specific category		
BVLOS over an assembly of people	8	Operation not possible in the specific category		

Final GRC 4



Length: 2.2m

M1: reduction of the maximum value of population density at risk in the operational area + ground risk buffer

M2: reduction of the critical area (e.g. parachute)

ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΗ ΜΕΘΟΔΟΛΟΓΙΑΣ SORA

SORA 2.5 Step#3 – determination of the final GRC

Intrinsic UAS Ground Risk Class						
Maximum dimension	UA characteristic	1m / approx. 3ft	3m / approx. 10ft	8m / approx. 25ft	20m / approx. 65ft	40m / approx. 130ft
Maximum cruise speed		25 m/s	35 m/s	75 m/s	150 m/s	200 m/s
Maximum iGRC population density (ppl/km ²)	Controlled ground area	1	2	3	4	5
	< 25	3	M2 4	5	6	7
	< 250	4	5	6	7	8
	< 2,500	5	6	M1 ⁷	8	9
	< 25,000	6	7	8	9	10
	< 250,000	7	8	9	10	11
	> 250,000	7	9	Not part of SORA		

Final GRC 4



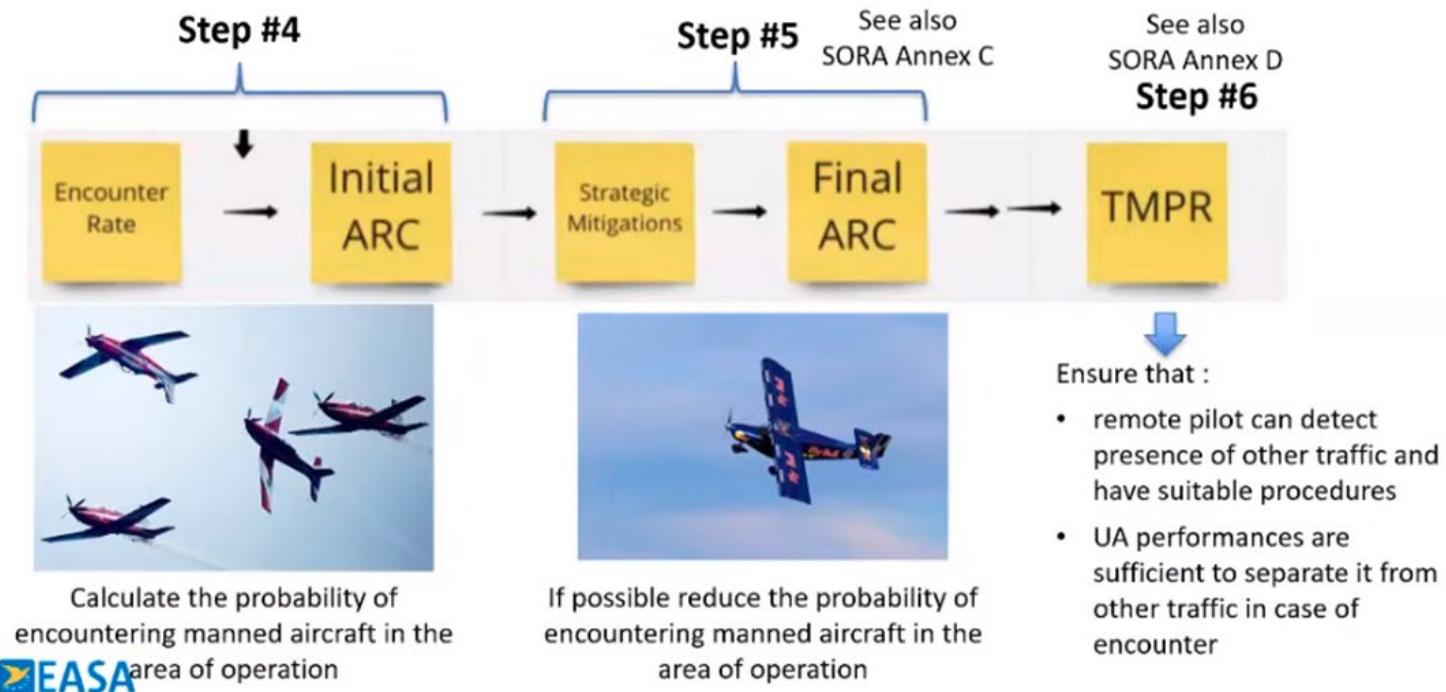
Length: 2.2m

M1: reduction of the maximum value of population density at risk in the operational area + ground risk buffer

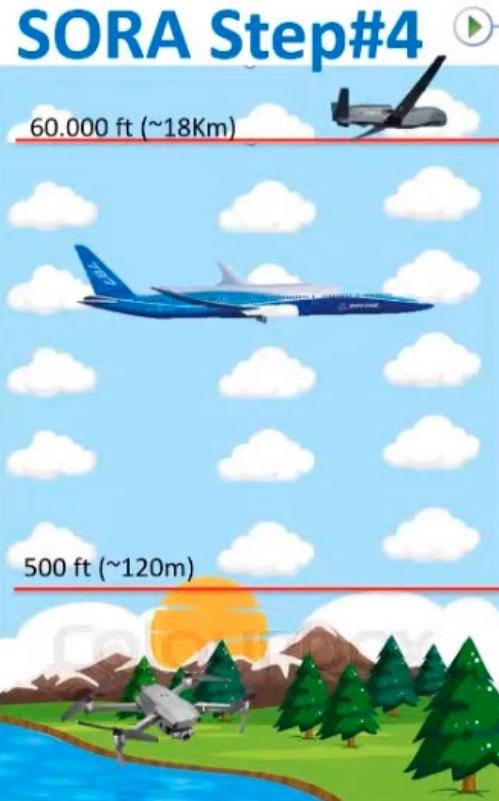
M2: reduction of the critical area (e.g. parachute)

ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΗ ΜΕΘΟΔΟΛΟΓΙΑΣ SORA

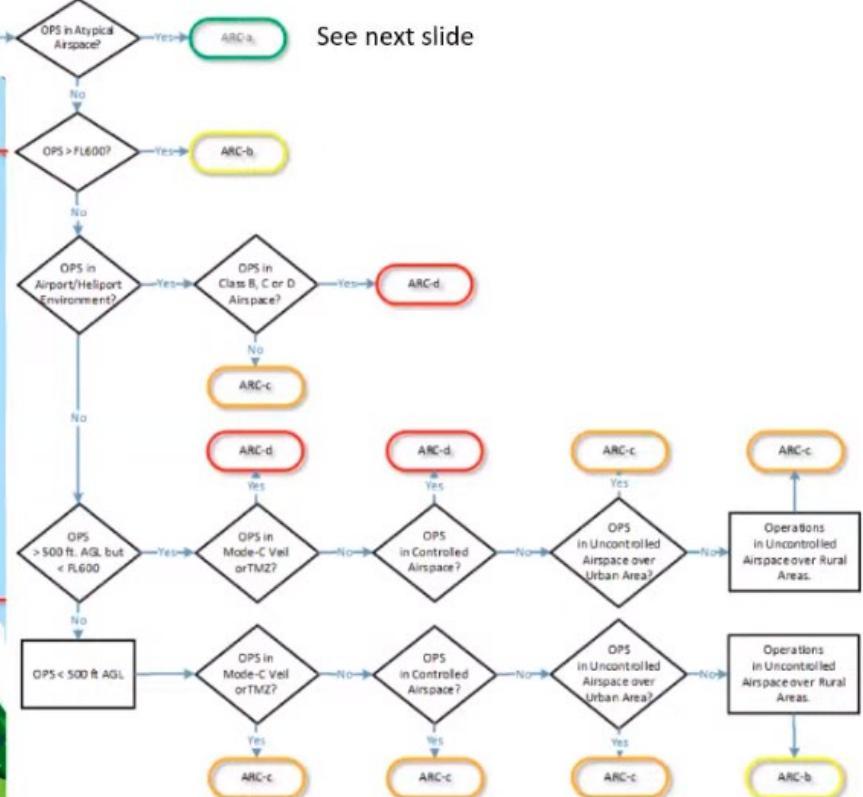
Assessing the air risk (no change in SORA 2.5)



ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΗ ΜΕΘΟΔΟΛΟΓΙΑΣ SORA



SORA Step#4



ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΗ ΜΕΘΟΔΟΛΟΓΙΑΣ SORA

SORA Step#4 Determination of the initial air risk class (ARC)

Outcome

- (a) Identification of the probability to encounter a manned aircraft;
- (b) Documentation of information and references used to determine the **initial ARC of the operational volume**.

4 air risk classes (ARC)

- ARC a ← Negligible encounter rate
- ARC b ← Low encounter rate
- ARC c ← Medium encounter rate
- ARC d ← High encounter rate



ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΗ ΜΕΘΟΔΟΛΟΓΙΑΣ SORA

What is the probability of encountering a manner aircraft?

Proximity of airport
Very high encounter rate
(ARC d)



Urban area
Medium encounter rate
even at low level
(ARC c)



Rural area
Medium encounter rate above 150m (ARC c),
lower below 150m (ARC b)

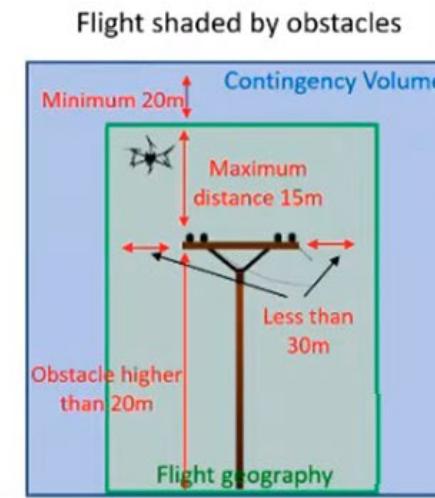
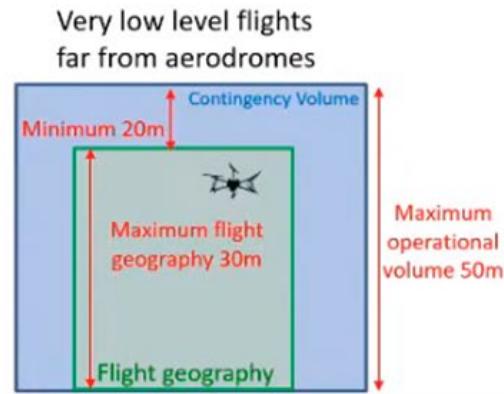
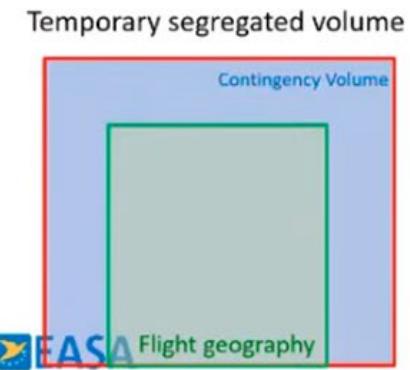


ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΗ ΜΕΘΟΔΟΛΟΓΙΑΣ SORA

Arc A: Atypical airspace (SORA 2.5 definition)

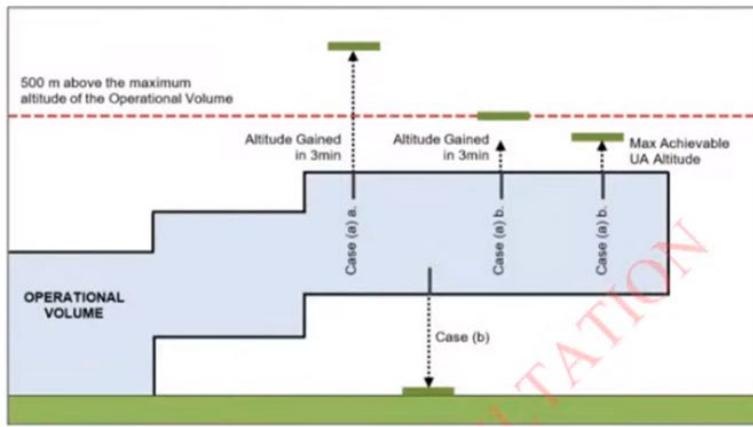
→ Negligible encounter rate

Examples:



ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΗ ΜΕΘΟΔΟΛΟΓΙΑΣ SORA

SORA 2.5: step #4 – Adjacent volume determination



- Height of adjacent volume:
 - No less than 500m or
 - altitude gained in 3 m
 - Operational volume may also have a lower limit

ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΗ ΜΕΘΟΔΟΛΟΓΙΑΣ SORA

SORA Step#5 - Application of strategic mitigations (optional)

sli.do #SORA2023 passcode: bwwlnb

Outcome

- (a) Identification of the strategic mitigations applied to reduce the initial ARC in the operational volume.
- (b) Identification of the residual ARC.
- (c) Documentation of information and references used to support the application of strategic mitigations.

See Annex C for additional information

ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΗ ΜΕΘΟΔΟΛΟΓΙΑΣ SORA

SORA Step #5 - #6 - Application of mitigations

Mitigations: **Strategic**
Step #5 (optional)
(Annex C)

vs

Tactical
Step #6
(Annex D)

- Limit the UAS operation in a portion of airspace or during time when the probability to encounter another aircraft is lower OR
- Demonstrate that the probability to encounter a manned in the operational volume aircraft is lower than the one identified in the initial ARC



Determination of the residual ARC

ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΗ ΜΕΘΟΔΟΛΟΓΙΑΣ SORA

SORA Step #5 – Strategic mitigations



Initial ARC c

How it is possible to reduce the ARC?

- Ask for a temporary segregated airspace → ARC a
- Conduct the operation during night when there may be less traffic → ARC b
- Use aerial observers to scan the sky
- Conduct the operation in VLOS (however the range will be drastically reduced). This can support the reduction of 1 ARC class (clarification in SORA 2.5)
- Contact the national aviation authority/ traffic service provider to gain data on the traffic in the area

SITUATION WILL CHANGE WHEN WE WILL HAVE AN ACCEPTABLE DETECT AND AVOID SYSTEM (DAA)

ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΗ ΜΕΘΟΔΟΛΟΓΙΑΣ SORA

SORA Step #5 – Strategic mitigations



Initial ARC c

How it is possible to reduce the ARC?

- Ask for a temporary segregated airspace → ARC a
- Conduct the operation during night when there may be less traffic → ARC b
- Use aerial observers to scan the sky
- Conduct the operation in VLOS (however the range will be drastically reduced). This can support the reduction of 1 ARC class (clarification in SORA 2.5)
- Contact the national aviation authority/ traffic service provider to gain data on the traffic in the area

SITUATION WILL CHANGE WHEN WE WILL HAVE AN ACCEPTABLE DETECT AND AVOID SYSTEM (DAA)

ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΗ ΜΕΘΟΔΟΛΟΓΙΑΣ SORA

What is U-space?



ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΗ ΜΕΘΟΔΟΛΟΓΙΑΣ SORA

SORA Step #6 – TMPR



- Depending on the final ARC, demonstrate compliance with TMPRs with the applicable level of robustness

Residual ARC	TMPRs	TMPR level of robustness
ARC-d	High	High
ARC-c	Medium	Medium
ARC-b	Low	Low
ARC-a	No requirement	No requirement

Table 4 — TMPRs and TMPR level of robustness assignment

ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΗ ΜΕΘΟΔΟΛΟΓΙΑΣ SORA

SORA 2.0 Step #8 OSO identification

Outcome

- (a) Definition of the robustness associated to the OSOs
- (b) Collection of information and references to be used to show compliance with the OSOs requirements.

→ The applicant is required to show compliance with 24 OSOs with the required Level of robustness (High, Medium or Low) depending on the SAIL

- ✓ UAS technical requirements
- ✓ Remote crew training and human errors
- ✓ Operation procedures
- ✓ Adverse operating conditions

ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΗ ΜΕΘΟΔΟΛΟΓΙΑΣ SORA

SORA 2.0 – Step 8 lesson learned

- Is it correct to assess OSOs in Step 8 and only after address containment in Step 9?
 - SORA 2.5: Step 8 (OSO) and Step 9 (containment) swapped
- Why we have 24 OSOs if in Annex E we have only 18?
 - SORA 2.5 list only 18 OSOs as in Annex E
- Which are under the responsibility of operators or manufacturers?
 - SORA 2.5 indicates for which OSOs evidences should be provided by manufacturers, which from operators
- Is the order in which the OSOs are shown the right one?
 - SORA 2.5: order of OSOs follows the order of topics of the operator manual

ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΗ ΜΕΘΟΔΟΛΟΓΙΑΣ SORA

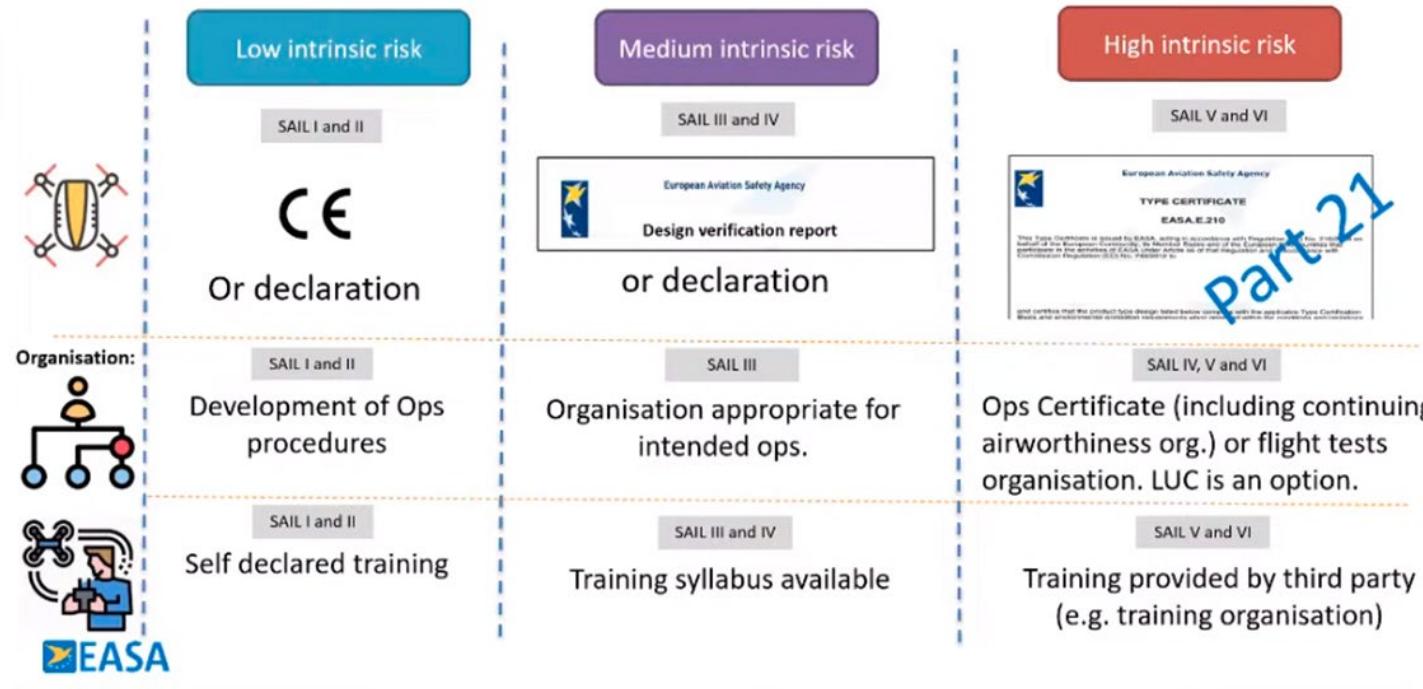
OSO table in SORA 2.5: renamed Step #9!

- No change in intent
(text updated for
clarification)
- Reflects Annex E (e.g.
OSOs #8,11,14 and 21
are merged)
- Reorganised to reflect
the order used when
developing an OM,
according to Annex A

New OSO	Old OSO		SAIL						Operator	Remote pilot	Manufacturer
			I	II	III	IV	V	VI			
OSO# I	OSO#01	Ensure the UAS operator is competent and/or proven	NR	L	M	H	H	H	x		
OSO# II	OSO#02	UAS manufactured by competent and/or proven entity	NR	NR	L	M	H	H			x
OSO# III	OSO#17	Remote crew is fit to operate	L	L	M	M	H	H	x	x	
OSO# IV	OSO#08, #11, #14, #21	Operational procedures are defined, validated and adhered to	L	M	H	H	H	H	x		
OSO# V	OSO#03	UAS maintained by competent and/or proven entity	L	L	M	M	H	H	Crit. 1 Crit. 2		Crit. 1
OSO# VI	OSO#07	Inspection of the UAS (product inspection) to ensure consistency with the ConOps	L	L	M	M	H	H	Crit. 1	Crit. 2	
OSO# VII	OSO#23	Environmental conditions for safe operations are defined, measurable and adhered to	L	L	M	M	H	H	Crit. 2	Crit. 3	Crit. 1
OSO# VIII	OSO#13	External services supporting UAS operations are adequate for the operation	L	L	M	H	H	H	x		
OSO# IX	OSO#16	Multi-crew coordination	L	L	M	M	H	H	Crit. 1 Crit. 3	Crit. 2	
OSO# X	OSO#09, #15, #22	Remote crew trained and current and able to control the abnormal situation	L	L	M	M	H	H		x	
OSO# XI	OSO#19	Safe recovery from human error	NR	NR	L	M	M	H	Crit. 1 Crit. 2	Crit. 2	Crit. 3
OSO# XII	OSO#04	UAS developed to authority recognised design standards	NR	NR	NR	L	M	H			x
OSO# XIII	OSO#05	UAS is designed considering system safety and reliability	NR	NR	L	M	H	H			x
OSO# XIV	OSO#18	Automatic protection of the flight envelope from human error	NR	NR	L	M	H	H			x
OSO# XV	OSO#20	A human factors evaluation has been performed and the human machine interface (HMI) found appropriate for the mission	NR	L	L	M	M	H			x
OSO# XVI	OSO#06	C3 link performance is appropriate for the operation	NR	L	L	M	H	H			x
OSO# XVII	OSO#24	UAS is designed and qualified for adverse environmental conditions	NR	NR	M	H	H	H			x
OSO# XVIII	OSO#10, #12	Safe recovery from a technical issue	L	L	M	M	H	H			x

ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΗ ΜΕΘΟΔΟΛΟΓΙΑΣ SORA

SAILs vs Requirements



Part 21

ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΗ ΜΕΘΟΔΟΛΟΓΙΑΣ SORA

SORA 2.5 containment

- New structure
 - Identification of size of adjacent area (ground risk) included in Step #2
 - Identification of size of adjacent volume (air risk) included in Step #3
 - Definition of the containment requirement in step 8

SORA 2.0

Step #1 – CONOPS
Step #2 – iGRC
Step #3 – Final GRC
Step #4 – iARC
Step #5 – Residual ARC
Step #6 – TMPR
Step #7 – SAIL
Step #8 – OSO
Step #9 – Containment
Step #10 – Comprehensive portfolio

SORA 2.5

Step #1 – Operation description
Step #2 – iGRC
Step #3 – Final GRC
Step #4 – iARC
Step #5 – Residual ARC
Step #6 – TMPR
Step #7 – SAIL
Step #8 – Containment
Step #9 – OSO
Step #10 – Comprehensive portfolio

ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΗ ΜΕΘΟΔΟΛΟΓΙΑΣ SORA

SORA 2.5 Step #8 - Containment

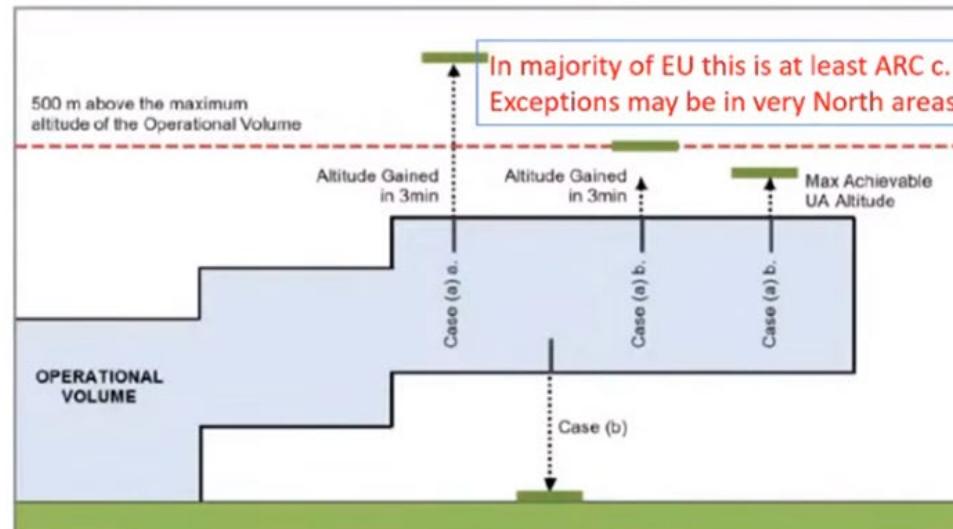
- 5 levels
 - None
 - Low (equal to basic containment of SORA 2.0)
 - Medium (equivalent to MoC SC Light UAS 2511)
 - High (equal to enhanced containment of SORA 2.0)
 - Consult (for corner cases)

None in EU will be only applicable for SAIL V and VI operations

The last 2 levels will be applicable for exceptional cases

ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΗ ΜΕΘΟΔΟΛΟΓΙΑΣ SORA

SORA 2.5 containment – air risk



Highest Adjacent Airspace	SAIL I, II, III, IV	SAIL V, VI
ARC-a or ARC-b	None	None
ARC-c or ARC-d	Low	None

Not applicable in
majority of EU

ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΗ ΜΕΘΟΔΟΛΟΓΙΑΣ SORA

SORA 2.5 containment

Ground risk

- Assess the GRC of the adjacent area considering the **AVERAGE POPULATION DENSITY**
- Mitigations might be applied to reduce the GRC of the adjacent area.
 - M1 for using the assumption of sheltering;
 - M2 mitigations based on passive designs or inherent UA characteristics, like frangibility, may be used to lower the adjacent area intrinsic GRC.
 - M2 mitigations like parachutes or special descent maneuver may not be used by default.

ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΗ ΜΕΘΟΔΟΛΟΓΙΑΣ SORA

SORA 2.5 containment

Adjacent area final GRC	SAIL					
	I	II	III	IV	V	VI
≤3	L	L	L	L	L	L
4	L	L	L	L	L	L
5	L	L	L	L	L	L
6	M	M	L	L	L	L
7	H	H	M	L	L	L
8	C	C	C	M	L	L
9				C	M	L
10					C	M

Due to the air
risk in EU this
will be Low

ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΗ ΜΕΘΟΔΟΛΟΓΙΑΣ SORA

SORA 2.5 containment

Adjacent area final GRC	SAIL					
	I	II	III	IV	V	VI
≤3	L	L	L	L	L	L
4	L	L	L	L	L	L
5	L	L	L	L	L	L
6	M	M	L	L	L	L
7			M	L	L	L
8				M	L	L
9					M	L
10						M



These are corner
cases

This is how in reality the table will look like in EU for majority of cases

Due to the air
risk in EU this
will be Low