Airworthiness recognition is an acknowledgement by Australia’s military airworthiness authority, the Defence Aviation Safety Authority (DASA), that another airworthiness authority applies credible and defensible safety assurance framework in the following areas:

- **Initial Airworthiness** – aircraft design, production and certification
- **Continued Airworthiness** – tasks performed to verify that conditions for granting a type certificate continue to be fulfilled
- **Continuing Airworthiness** – all the processes that ensure that, during the operating life of an aircraft, it meets airworthiness requirements and is safe to operate.

Airworthiness recognition focusses on identifying and managing differences between how the integrity of personnel, processes and products are controlled within airworthiness systems from which the products or services are being sought. In the acquisition and support of its aircraft platforms, Defence often receive products and services that are already oversighted by another airworthiness authority.

Airworthiness recognition can be used to leverage this authority’s expertise and accept these products and services to avoid duplication of work, reduce costs and increase operational flexibility.

DASA’s recognition assessment of another airworthiness authority results in a set of terms advising the regulated community of airworthiness recognition provisions and how to ensure the suitability of arrangements.

Some examples of how recognition can be used by an Australian military organisation include:

- obtaining maintenance services on ADF aircraft operating overseas in the absence of DASA-approved maintenance organisations; and
- making minor modifications to ADF aircraft, where the modifications are approved by recognised authorities.