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# IFALPA voices safety concerns over MPL implementation

CHERTSEY 23 October: The ICAO Standard for the new Multi Crew Pilot Licence (MPL) is due to come into force on 23 November. IFALPA has concerns that an accelerated implementation of the licence, without certain protections, could erode safety.

The new Multi-Crew Pilot Licence (MPL), if applied correctly and subject to careful monitoring of the competency of the newly trained pilots, could produce a highly qualified new hire first officer for the airlines. However, if applied incorrectly in response to cost or time pressures designed to address the current pilot shortage, it could have a detrimental impact on flight safety. Improper application could also erode current, proven training standards.

IFALPA is yet to be convinced that the new MPL scheme will provide sufficient guarantees for safeguarding present training quality standards, and meet or exceed the current level of safety associated with the training of pilots. Any downgrading of these standards cannot and must not be accepted in an industry that has the goal of maintaining a continuous improvement of safety standards.

Only a well-devised MPL scheme that is gradually introduced into common use, coupled with an effective Advisory Board system with a clearly defined charter that assists in implementation of any MPL scheme, will overcome the challenges posed by the new MPL concept. IFALPA will continue to contribute ideas and expertise to assist in obtaining appropriate solutions to any MPL implementation issues, but will only give its support when we are convinced that MPL will assure a greater safety margin for passengers, crew and the general public.

## *Notes to Editors*

*The International Federation of Air Line Pilots' Associations represents in excess of 100,000 pilots in more than 95 countries world-wide. The mission of IFALPA is to be the global voice of airline pilots, promoting the highest level of aviation safety and security world-wide and providing services, support and representation to all of its Member Associations. See the Federation website [www.ifalpa.org](http://www.ifalpa.org)*

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