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# IFALPA Security Experts condemn Australian Government for flight deck access proposals

Sydney 19 May: Meeting this week in Sydney, the Security Committee of the International Federation of Air Line Pilots' Associations (IFALPA) condemned the Australian Government's plan to change the country's Aviation Transport Security Regulations governing flight deck access.

The Committee heard yesterday from Australian Government regulators and concluded that, far from enhancing the safety and security of the travelling public, the regulations may well be detrimental and could have international repercussions as airlines operating into Australia re-think their procedures.

IFALPA President Capt. Carlos Limon said today that the Federation has two concerns with the amendments proposed by Minister of Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, Anthony Albanese in Select Legislative Instrument 2010/80:

“First the construction of the amendment places the legal responsibility for compliance with safety regulations from the airline to the pilot in command. This proposal runs counter to internationally accepted conventions that the airline as the Air Operator Certificate holder is ultimately responsible for regulatory compliance. Abandonment of this principle could have far reaching effects for aviation safety since it could allow unscrupulous operators to claim they have no responsibility for safety of operations.

Second, in its present form the legislation will exclude licensed company pilots from the list of people allowed to travel on the flight deck. This proposal is without merit, since past experience in real world operations has shown that an additional pilot on the flight deck enhances the safety of flight operations.

Furthermore, the fact that this legislation supposes that a pilot, who may well have been in command of another company aircraft shortly before or subsequently, somehow poses a security risk when travelling on the flight deck when off duty exposes it as ill conceived and poorly drafted.

Clearly then, these amendments are hamstrung by these glaring and elemental errors. It is also patently obvious that the drafting of the amendment would have benefitted greatly had the Ministry consulted aviation security experts from the regulator, the airlines and pilot groups.

As always IFALPA stands ready to assist whenever matters concerning the safety and security of the travelling public are considered in order to ensure that reasonable, workable and above all effective measures are introduced”.

#### *Notes to Editors*

*The International Federation of Air Line Pilots' Associations represents in excess of 100,000 pilots in more than 100 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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