



Attention all FAAA Domestic/Regional Division Members

Mutual Recognition Bill with New Zealand before Parliament Is 1:36 Cabin Crew to Passenger Ratio Under Threat?

Since 2003, your Association has regularly updated FAAA members on the status of this contentious issue, either by newsletters or at Annual General Meetings.

While there are a number of aspects related to the Bill it is a major concern to the Association that the New Zealand law provides for 1:50 Cabin Crew ratio.

Further, as there has always been pressure from airline operators to increase to 1:50 Cabin Crew to Passenger ratio why would it remain at 1:36 in Australia if New Zealand registered aircraft could run 1:50 throughout Australia.

Your Association has played a key role in strenuously opposing the above mentioned Bill by making representations to all parties involved in the decision making process (regulatory authorities, government bodies and politicians). With the numbers in the Senate we have been successful to date. As members would be aware since the last Federal election this has now changed.

Members should note that the "Mutual Recognition with New Zealand and other matters Bill" will be debated in the Parliament beginning this Thursday 11 August 2005. This Bill incorporates a number of changes to the Civil Aviation Act 1988 in this country. The proposed amendments will mean that an operator holding an AOC issued by the Civil Aviation Authority of New Zealand (CAANZ) will be able to conduct operations in Australia without having to obtain an equivalent AOC issued by CASA and vice versa. This means that a New Zealand registered aircraft can operate within Australia with a lower Flight Attendant composition.

This could affect you directly, especially future employment, if it is an economic incentive to run New Zealand registered aircraft with New Zealand crew throughout Australia.

What can you do about this?

1. Contact your local Federal Member of Parliament and voice your disapproval.
2. Contact the Civil Aviation Safety Authority of Australia to request that any consideration of this Bill will ensure that the high aviation standards and safety in this country will be of paramount importance.
3. Contact the Office of Hon Warren Truss – Minister for Transport and Regional Services by:
 - Facsimile: 02 62734126
 - Telephone: 02 62777680
 - Email: W.Truss.MP@aph.gov.au

A pro forma facsimile letter is provided on the back of this newsletter.

Australian aviation safety is the envy of the world due in no small way to our regulations and requirements of the appropriate regulatory authorities.

The Association representing safety professionals on board the aircraft cannot and will not accept that it is as simple as Mutual Recognition with New Zealand. The real test is whether our standards are appropriate or not as was the case when the 1:36 was reviewed in the last few years and this review concluded that there should be no recommendation to change.

This newsletter was written and authorised by **Darryl Watkins**, Divisional Secretary and **John Playford**, Manager industrial Relations.

To the Honourable Warren Truss
Minister for Transport and Regional Affairs
Parliament House
CANBERRA

Facsimile : 02 62734126

I strenuously oppose the Civil Aviation Legislation Amendment (Mutual Recognition with New Zealand and Other Matters) Bill 2003.

I believe certain aspects of this Bill has the potential to compromise aviation safety in this country that to date has been the envy of the world.

Flight Attendants, as safety professionals, play a key role in aviation safety and security. Any Bill that has a potential impact on the Flight Attendant numbers on board an aircraft appears to be in conflict with your Governments policy of increasing aviation security and awareness in Australia.

I respectfully request our government reconsider this Bill until all key stakeholders can debate the potential impact this proposed Bill may have on the safety and security of aviation in this country.

Yours sincerely

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