



FAAA NEWS

FLIGHT ATTENDANTS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
(Domestic/Regional Division)

8 March 2010

CCR01-10

Attention: All Domestic/Regional Cabin Crew

WE'RE SERIOUS ABOUT SAFETY **CABIN CREW – THE LAST LINE OF DEFENCE** **PROTECT OUR CABIN CREW RATIO**

As members know, the Civil Aviation Authority (CASA) is the regulatory body responsible for the **safety** of aviation in Australia.

The cabin crew ratio of 1 crew member for 36 passengers has been the standard for aircraft operating in Australia for 50 years. This standard was last reviewed by Parliament in 2003 and it was determined that it should remain unchanged. Australia is renowned for having the best airline safety standard in the world.

CASA is proposing to change the cabin crew ratio by legislation from 1:36 passengers to 1:50 passenger seats. The Association cannot and will not accept that changes in the aviation industry following September 11, lend themselves to any change to safety levels that would **reduce** the number of cabin crew on an aircraft. In fact, the changes in the industry relating to security and safety should do nothing other than reinforce the maintenance of 1:36 cabin crew ratio.

Members should note and travelling public need to know that CASA is considering changes to the cabin crew ratio that, if approved, will hand the airlines the right to cut hundreds of safety professional positions from domestic operations within Australia.

The impact is far reaching:

The proposed change is applicable to all **single aisle aircraft** with a passenger seat configuration of more than **36 but not more than 216**.

This means the majority of aircraft flying domestically **including Dash 8, Fokker 50 and 100, A320, A321, B717, B737-400, B737-800, B737-700, E-170, E-190, BAe146, RJ70**.

They Cannot be Serious?

At a time when the **Federal Government** is committed to National security and protecting Australia as evident in the Aviation White Paper, CASA is considering the right for airlines to cut hundreds of safety professional positions. Cabin Crew are trained to monitor passengers with respect to the security of the aircraft and safety of passengers.

Cabin crew ARE the last line of defence.

Why?

As previously advised, airlines have sought 'exemptions' from CASA to the 1:36 regulation for specific aircraft. This exemption process was behind 'closed doors' effectively bypassing any consultation with public stakeholders.

As these exemptions near their expiry dates, CASA is now seeking to make these exemptions law applicable to **all** aircraft.

The FAAA can see no legitimate safety reason to reduce the safety standard. Rather, the justification of using foreign standards inferior to our own Australian standards can only be seen as an argument to reduce the number of cabin crew not for safety but for commercial considerations.

Setting a New World Standard - How low can they go?

The proposed changes also includes the provision for a pilot in command to **further reduce** the number of crew in the event a cabin crew member becomes unfit due to illness or injury during a tour of duty as long as there is still 1 cabin crew member for every 50 **passengers** on board. That is, the ratio can be altered from 1:50 **passenger seats** to 1:50 **passengers** to meet airline operational requirements.

This will set the **world's 'worst'** standard below the current world minimum standard of 1:50 passenger seats. ***Compound this with the hours of work contained in the new Modern Award for domestic Cabin Crew – Safe Australian Skies – are they serious?***

The Association's view is that the travelling public, irrespective of what they pay for an airline seat, deserve the **safest** seat Australia can provide.

What can you do?

The Association will submit a written response to CASA on behalf of members. However, we strongly suggest you raise your objections by completing the **NPRM Response Form** on link below. Remember, this is not about the service and product airlines have on board, it's about safety and security.

As members of the travelling public, your friends and relatives should also submit their objections. Closing date is 6th April 2010.

www.casa.gov.au/newrules/ors

Or fax: 1800 653 897 E-mail: nprm0905OS@casa.gov.au

If our legitimate safety concerns are not taken seriously by CASA, the Association will take our concerns elsewhere.

More Information:

Go to our website www.faaadomestic.org.au and click on Cabin Crew Ratio (in airlines) for the Notice of Proposed Rule Making and past Newsletters. Further information will follow shortly.

Written and authorised by **Jo-Ann Davidson, Divisional Secretary, Carol Locket, National OHS Convenor** and **John Playford, Manager Industrial Relations**

18/538 Gardeners Road
ALEXANDRIA NSW 2015
Ph: (02) 9669 5366
Free call: 1800 733 222
Email: info@faaadomestic.org.au

5/5 Zillman Road
HENDRA QLD 4011
Ph: (07) 3268 3323
Email: info@faaadomestic.org.au

1/83-87 Dover Street
RICHMOND VIC 3121
Ph: (03) 9092 9850
Email: info@faaadomestic.org.au