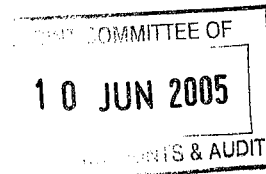


**From:** Peter Kerwin  
**Sent:** Thursday, 9 June 2005 7:54 PM  
**To:** Committee, JCPAA (REPS)  
**Subject:** Security Screening of Operating Aircrew

Submission No. 13

Committee Secretary  
Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit  
Department of the House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600  
AUSTRALIA



re: Report 400: Review of Aviation Security in Australia.

Submission on Screening of Aircrew on Duty and ASIC Issues.

As a captain in a regional airline for nearly 30 years I never thought the day would come when I would be 'frisked' for items that may 'allow' me to 'take control' of my own aircraft.

Last night and again this morning, in the course of his tarmac passenger control and load sheet duties, and while wearing his ASIC in plain view, my First Officer was reduced to his shirt and socks, and with his hat, jacket, belt and shoes in the x-ray machine, forced to clutch his trousers as he finally passed successfully through the scanner. This embarrassing public process is to be repeated every time we land at a major airport in Australia.

Although my First Officer has to suffer the indignity more often, tomorrow morning before I proceed to my aircraft I will have to take myself and my flight bag through the same electronic gauntlet in case I have something with me that could compromise the security and safety of the aircraft. Having replaced all my pocket paraphernalia, shoes and spectacles, and secured my trouser belt, I shall then proceed to the aircraft to spend the day ensuring the aircraft and occupants do not come to any harm. I do this strapped in a seat less than 10cm from a nice sharp crash axe and a pressurised fire extinguisher installed there for everyone's safety.

I feel the authorities have lost sight of not just the security ball, but forgotten what the game even is. Professional licensed aircrew are now treated as the enemy, it seems. We cannot be trusted with nail clippers, but we can be let loose with a plane load of passengers.

If there is a clear and obvious logic to ensuring we, as operating aircrew, don't carry a pair of scissors or tweezers on board, then it's lost on my colleagues and me. If it wasn't becoming so annoying, delaying, stressful and serious, this whole aircrew security screening would be a great joke for the first day of April.

I cannot see any advantage in a requirement for all regional airport workers to hold an ASIC. From my point of view, my ASIC is now of little use to me apart from ensuring a mediocre discount on a meat pie and coffee should I venture into the terminal around meal time. It certainly doesn't appear to distinguish me in any way from the rest of the traveling public in the increasingly long security screening queue, but I now feel effectively alienated from airport security staff and associated security issues.

Peter Kerwin