

From: Adam Purcell
Sent: Tuesday, 7 June 2005 11:32 AM
To: Committee, JCPAA (REPS)
Subject: Aviation Security and ASICs

G'day,

I'd like to comment on the whole ASIC situation. As I understand it, all pilots wishing to use 'security controlled' airports after Dec 31 this year will be required to hold and display an ASIC card. 'Security controlled' means that the airport is being served by RPT operations as far as I am aware. This means that small fields such as Wollongong or Moruya will become security controlled.

My concern is with the duplication of effort for background checks necessary for the issue of an ASIC. I am currently waiting on the issue of my Private Pilot Licence (Aeroplane) - having passed the required flight test in mid April. The hold-up seems to be at whichever organisation is conducting the background checks, and it is plainly obvious that no-one really knows what they are supposed to be doing regarding the photo licence regime. Hence it is taking far, far too long. If I require an ASIC to fly from Wollongong (where I completed my PPL training) then I will need to go through (and pay for) another round of background checks - in which precisely the same thing is being checked as is being done now for the issue of my photo licence.

Where is the logic in duplicating these checks, and why is it that checks for an ASIC need to be renewed every two years while those exact same checks for a photo licence last for five?

I have heard of a proposal which may have some merit. Because the checks required for both an ASIC and the photo licence are the same things, a possible solution is that a photo licence will act as a 'grey' ASIC, allowing the holder (subject to having a lawful reason etc etc) access to the GA apron at security controlled airports. as a private pilot I have no need to access RPT ('red' ASIC) areas at airports. Would this be too difficult to implement? It seems that we as pilots are going to have to get used to the idea of security background checks. So let's try and make the process as painless as possible. Firstly, figure out and fix just why it is that pilots need to wait so long for the issue of their photo licences. A friend of mine has now been waiting (and thus has been unable to fly) for a full five months. That, simply, is unacceptable. Secondly, if the Government feels the need to impose such checks on us, the Government should be paying for them. So far this is the case though I am aware that moves are afoot to change this. I strongly protest against such a proposal. Finally, let's avoid unnecessary duplication of effort - if a pilot has undergone the required security checks for a photo licence, they have also undergone the required checks for a grey ASIC. So a photo licence should therefore negate the requirement for separate checks (and costs) for a grey ASIC.

Please, show a little common sense!!!

Adam PURCELL

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..or something like that.