

Subject: Senate Inquiry into CASA.

Hi,

Perhaps the Senate Committee could ask questions of CASA as to

- 1) what were the results of these additional checks
- 2) were any additional resources recruited to carry out these checks
- 3) if no additional resources were employed what routine checks were dispensed with to enable implementation of these additional checks.

Other questions could include such matters as:

- 1) the ratio of "front line" Inspectors to other staff. My info suggests of the 650 staff employed by CASA approximately only 150 are engaged in "frontline" safety audits etc.
- 2) In house training of audit staff
- 3) the level of "follow up" action taken by CASA to ensure deficiencies found during "on site" inspections are IN FACT suitably addressed.
- 4) What level of auditing is carried out by CASA to ensure an organisation's Safety Management System is operating as intended. i.e. in house deficiencies are addressed in a timely and satisfactory manner.
- 5) Does CASA follow all requirements as outlined in ICAO Annexes. Note: Australia is a signatory to ICAO. If the answer is NO then can CASA document those items which are at variance to ICAO requirements.
- 6) what qualifications were considered mandatory in the employment of Air Safety Inspectors. On what basis are these ATIs able to carry out the very complex nature of matters covering the safety of Air Navigation in Australia.

For the Committee's consideration

Bob Hoy

CASA Media Release - Friday, 4 June 2004

Airlines subject to new safety checks

Australia's major airlines will be subject to special new safety checks by the Civil Aviation Safety Authority.

The safety checks will focus in-depth on a key area of airline operations that has been identified as a potential risk.

This will be an area of operations that is common to all airlines and that plays a critical role in maintaining and improving safety. The results will effectively give CASA an overall 'health-check' on the airline industry.

The new checks will be in addition to CASA's normal program of scheduled airline audits and spot checks on operations.

Up to 40 large and medium sized airlines across the nation will be subject to the new checks, which includes the major carriers and most regional operations.

CASA's chief executive officer, Bruce Byron, says the new checks are an important safety initiative.

"CASA already has a very effective surveillance and audit program for all airlines, large and small," Mr Byron says.

"But I believe now is the time to do even more, to dig even deeper to make sure safety remains at the highest possible levels.

"The new audits will include an inspection of a specific area of operations that is common to all airlines, one that is essential for safety.

"CASA's inspectors will then focus on examining how each airline is performing in this area to make sure they are all delivering the optimum safety outcomes. This will give CASA both a strong understanding of the performance of each airline, as well as an overall 'health-check' on this important sector in the aviation industry.

"This initiative shows we are striving to improve the quality of our work by refining an already successful auditing system."

The first area to be subject to the new safety checks will be maintenance control systems within airlines. Maintenance control systems manage the inspections, repairs and overhauls that are required for every aircraft in service with airlines, as well as tracking spare parts and documentation.

A number of Australian airlines have experienced problems with their maintenance control systems in recent years.

CASA is making sure the new audits are conducted consistently by integrating special teams of safety inspectors to carry out the work.

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