

Airborne Image Recorders

NOTE

This paper is an update and a merging of 12POS05 (2 November 2011) and 15POS16 (8 February 2016).

BACKGROUND

Airborne Image Recorders (AIRs) have been recommended by some Accident Investigation Authorities as an additional tool for accident investigations.

IFALPA has long supported the use of flight data recorders, recognising their potential for improving flight safety. The Federation accepted Cockpit Voice Recorders (CVRs) after assurances by National Authorities that the sensitive safety information contained in these devices would be protected in accordance with the provisions of ICAO Annexes 6, 13 and 19.

The on-going misuse of audio recordings, which often end up being leaked to the media and the public domain, with examples including American Airlines flight 965, GOL flight 1907 and more recently Germanwings flight 4U9525 and Rescue 116, clearly shows the limitations of these provisions.

Given the high demand for sensational pictures, IFALPA has absolutely no doubt that the protection of AIR data, which can include identifiable images of flight crewmembers, would not be ensured either. If released, this will affect safety and could have a devastating effect on the families of the victims, following a fatal accident.

POSITION

Until the misuse of recordings and transcripts has been effectively prevented, IFALPA will remain strongly opposed to the installation of AIRs in aircraft. The Federation supports expanding the existing technology of the Flight Data Recorder (FDR) to provide a better understanding of the state of the aircraft and believes that Safety Management is the most effective way forward for proactive safety improvement.