



@ATAC

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From the Desk of the President and CEO of the Air Transport Association of Canada

@ATAC Comes Back on Line

After a prolonged absence, @ATAC makes a comeback under a new more dynamic format. The ATAC newsletter will now be published more regularly and will present brief summaries of issues ATAC is working on for the benefit of its members. Don't hesitate to contact us should you want more information on any of these topics.

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We welcome your feedback.

ATAC Opposes Bill C-310

ATAC has begun its determined opposition to a private members Bill C-310. The highly punitive purported Bill of Passenger Rights was introduced on February 10, 2009 and passed second reading in May. ATAC believes safety will be compromised. ATAC will appear before the Standing Committee on Transport, Infrastructure and Communities. This Committee meeting has been postponed until the early Fall.

Opportunities India Project

Phase III of the project to sponsor an incoming mission has been approved by Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada. However, the committee has decided to change direction to support an outgoing mission to India.

ATAC Involved in Consultation on U.S. Overflight Fees

ATAC has become involved in consultation on a proposal by the FAA to increase overflight fees. ATAC has successfully fought two legal battles against the FAA on this matter.

Dangerous Goods Sub-Committee

Dangerous Goods Sub-Committee on training has decided to embark on a project to develop Instructor Standards for Dangerous Goods Air Instructors.

Phase II Health Canada Potable Water Management Programs

Health Canada has now approved all potable water management programs for the 4 Phase II airlines. Audit process has begun on Phase I operators.

Sector Study HRSDC/CAMC/ATAC Project

Rob Malatest and Associates has been hired as the contractor to undertake the research of the Human-Resource Study of Commercial Pilots in Canada. The Executive Committee has been established and has had an initial meeting to guide the direction of the project. On June 11th the first industry meeting will be held at the CQFA Flight Crew Training Centre in Montreal.

Reduced Visibility Operations (RVOP)

Through much effort by ATAC and its members, Transport Canada and NAV CANADA are making progress on the subject of RVOP. Although this has been in discussion for quite some time it was in March of this year that specific requirements were put in place. Unfortunately the confusion regarding this issue continued to grow and generated much consternation amongst affected air carriers. Since then we have held several meetings internally within ATAC's Flight Operations Committee as well as with TC and NAV CANADA. During the May 8th meeting TC Civil Aviation committed to five deliverables: 1. Revised CFS GEN material, 2. Revised CAP GEN material, 3. New AC on publication of special reduced/low visibility procedures for pilots in the aeronautical publications, 4. Conditions for the use of a follow-me vehicle as a permanent exemption (pending regulatory change), and 5. Master FAQ document. These documents are now available and have been distributed. If you have not received a copy of them and are interested please contact Les Aalders at laalders@atac.ca.

BC PCTIA Alert Fee Changes to BC Aviation Schools

Areas of concern are increased fees associated with programs in:
-total fees paid to PCTIA based on 2008 revenues, including registration fees, program fees and tuition assurance fund remittances including equipment usage.
ATAC is working with the Helicopter Association of Canada in developing a strategy to deal with this PCTIA initiative.

Another commitment at the meeting by TC was a two year temporary exemption to GNWT airports for the use of retro-reflective markers while they install the required infrastructure to support reduced visibility operations. TC is working with the Prairie and Northern Region on the conditions for this exemption as it only affects their airports (4-5 of the largest ones operated by the GNWT). Following a disposition of comments and translation, the FAQ document will be posted on the web and the TC target for this is the end of June 2009. Concurrently, the revised CFS and CAP GEN material will be sent to NAV CANADA AIS for publication. Following a disposition of comments and translation, TC hopes to have the remaining two guidance material documents out as soon as possible.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR

ATAC's 75th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
AND TRADESHOW

November 15-17, 2009

Hilton Hotel and Quebec City Convention Centre

"Aviation in a Recovering Economy"

Please visit our website for ATAC's preliminary program, accommodation details and other pertinent information <http://www.atac.ca/en/events/agm/index.html>

For information on Sponsorships and/or the Tradeshow please email Debbie Simpson at atac@atac.ca or visit our website.

Join us in celebrating ATAC's 75th Anniversary.