

QF: 047/2007

7 November 2007

# ❖ NOTICE ❖



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**TO: ALAEA QANTAS MEMBERS ACS**

**RE: ONE MAN PUSHBACKS – SAFETY INCIDENTS**

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The ALAEA has been made aware of a Safety Information Notice issue date: 21/10/2007 S.I.N. No: BNE-14-2007, highlighting the incidence of a “number of near misses” associated with pushbacks. Members should also refer to our previous Notices 25<sup>th</sup> September 2006 and 5<sup>th</sup> October 2006 that were issued following incidents in Perth last year involving single man pushbacks. In part these Notices state:

**“The ALAEA recommends that all aircraft pushbacks be carried out by a minimum of two engineers until a full review of procedures is concluded and the appropriate equipment and training provided.**

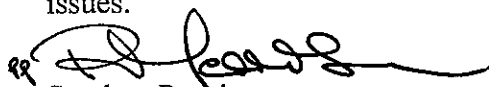
**In addition to the initial recommendation I would also like to advise members that the ALAEA will not be able to represent members involved in incidents that occur whilst acting contrary to the above advice.”**

Importantly members should remember and abide by Qantas’ policy “put safety before schedule”.

Members would be aware that the introduction of the single LAME pushback efficiency was agreed by the ALAEA and Qantas as part of the “Workchange Project” with provisos being that such pushbacks would only be implemented where it was safe to do so, appropriate training, procedures and equipment provided and working effectively. Although Qantas have taken steps to test and supply new equipment such as Cordless Headsets all of the above conditions have not yet been met.

In the interest of preventing an imminent risk to ALAEA member’s personal safety, prospective damage to aircraft and risk to passengers safety for which a LAME maybe held accountable and face disciplinary action including dismissal, the ALAEA reiterates the previous recommendation to members as highlighted above.

In the meantime the ALAEA will continue to consult with Qantas to resolve the issues.

  
Stephen Purvinas  
Federal Secretary

**“To undertake supervise and certify for the safety of all who fly.”**