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# ❖ NOTICE ❖

**TO: ALAEA MEMBERS QANTAS**

**RE: FUEL TANK ENTRY UPDATE**

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Further to the brief notice on Friday, the ALAEA provides this important information regarding fuel tank and other confined space entry. From reports to our office it is understood that CSE courses for Tullamarine maintenance staff have taken 3 days to complete and encompass all requirements of State Legislation with training carried out to Australian Safety standard AS 2865. Some ongoing aspects for Tullamarine staff considering tank entry may also need to be checked for compliance eg. Medical re-examinations.

At this stage it is reported that the CSE training for all other Engineering staff is inadequate in a number of ways and does not meet Australian Safety standards. Additionally Qantas's own QGISMS (Qantas Group Integrated Safety Management System) does not allow confined space entry unless all requirements are met. The objective of this Qantas policy is-

*"To prevent **risk of fatality** from hazards associated with Confined Space Entry (CSE) at all Qantas Group workplaces and fulfil statutory requirements."*

Although 99.9% of tank entries are uneventful, when things go wrong, they have the potential to get extremely serious. The Corporate policy is also designed to meet OH&S requirements Australia wide which in turn fall back on AS 2865. Qantas's own group policy also falls back directly to this applicable Australian Safety Standard.

The ALAEA have been advised that some Managers have been playing down the importance of the mandated training and ongoing requirements that all persons involved in tank entry need to meet. It is a matter of fact that inadequate CSE training programs were put in place by Qantas Engineering management to shorten course lengths which in turn allowed budgets to be tightened. Tighter budgets lead to larger management bonuses which in turn add to the vicious circle that downgrades safety further.

Some areas where the fuel tank entry training are lacking include the following excerpts from the Group policy-

*All CSE personnel shall be trained in appropriate CSE First Aid (AS 2865 states that this training must include a CPR component)*

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


*All rescue party personnel shall hold current First Aid certification*

*All personnel required to undertake any CSE shall undergo an appropriate medical examination or produce medical evidence indicating fitness for the task (This does not mean a Supervisor asking if you feel ok to enter)*

*Medical re-examinations shall be regularly undertaken as follows:  
For Fuel Tank/toxic workplace entry – not more than six monthly intervals*

*All Qantas Group CSE workplaces shall undertake at least annual rescue drills, which includes administration of first aid whilst in the confined space environment*

If any of the above requirements cannot be met and you enter a fuel tank or take part as an observer, you will be in breach of Qantas policy and OH&S Legislation. Members should report any breach by another Engineering employee to Qantas on a form 2000 and Cross report and take a copy for your record. Members can follow up with your local ALAEA representative if you have any concerns on these matters.



STEPHEN PURVINAS  
Federal Secretary