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❖ NOTICE ❖

TO: QANTAS MEMBERS

RE: CORDLESS HEADSETS

The ALAEA and Qantas have now concluded discussions regarding the introduction of cordless headsets. Due to two safety incidents occurring when they were previously used contrary to ALAEA advice, changes have now been made by the introduction of a lanyard on some models and changes to the procedure to make use safer.

The parties have agreed that training can commence from Wednesday the 3rd of June. When the training is complete the units should not be used until after Tech Crew have been issued a Flight Standing Order advising them what to look for after aircraft pushback has occurred. Management will advise LAMEs when the FSO has been issued. Once use commences there will be a one month evaluation period in each port. At the end of this period, use of the headsets will continue unless new hazards are identified during the evaluation.

Successful introduction of cordless headsets also negates the ALAEA recommendation to always call for a second engineer on aircraft pushbacks. Once in operation it is at the discretion of the LAME on the headset whether wing walkers would be required. In order for this to be established a number of considerations including Local Area Procedures, bay position, visibility, experience and the weather should be taken in to account.

Thanks to all our members who have followed our advice strictly from day one. It is unfortunate that it took two incidents where the base units were left connected to the aircraft nose after departure for Qantas to take ALAEA concerns seriously. The ALAEA understands that members are at times placed under unreasonable pressure by some managers to reject union advice and plough ahead with change projects regardless. Do not succumb to this pressure; just show your manager a copy of the latest relevant ALAEA notice. Also be mindful that the ALAEA are often falsely quoted as having agreed to something. Comments such as *"its ok they are doing it in Melbourne"* are often duplicated in Melbourne with comments such as *"its ok they are doing it in Sydney"*.

Please follow ALAEA advice at all times and remember that the passing of time does not mean that our advice is not current, when the ALAEA position changes, members will always be informed.

STEVE PURVINAS
Federal Secretary

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