



Coalition of Airline Pilots Associations

May 24, 2010

To Whom it May Concern:

The Coalition of Airline Pilots Associations (CAPA) a trade association of professional airline pilots representing the pilots of the Allied Pilots Association, Association of Shared Aircraft Pilots, Independent Pilots Association, Southwest Airlines Pilots Association, APA Teamsters Local 1224, and US Airline Pilots Association has long supported a system that would provide for continuous pilot vision when unstoppable binding smoke invades an airline cockpit.

Airliners are not certified for continuous blinding smoke but only a finite amount of smoke for a short three minutes. As a result, there have been numerous accidents in the past that resulted from continuous unstoppable smoke in the cockpit. Fixing this unaddressed safety issue has a collateral benefit of addressing a security issue as well.

Not commonly known is that damage inflicted by a small bomb may not cause an aircraft to crash but is known to generate enough smoke to blind pilots and prevent them from seeing their instruments in order to fly and land the airplane. If the airplane remains flyable, then the blinding smoke becomes a safety issue. An inability to see due to unstoppable smoke will result in the crash of a flyable aircraft due to blinding smoke.

The Coalition of Airline Pilots Associations takes the position that since the Secretary of Transportation, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the Federal Aviation Administration have equipped their aircraft with technology to permit their pilots to see in a cockpit filled with continuous unstoppable smoke, the public and airline crews deserve the same degree of safety.

Respectfully,

Captain Paul Onorato
President