



Head office of AEI

Voltairetuin 4
2908 XJ Capelle a/d IJssel
The Netherlands
Tel: +31 345 851384
Fax: +31 172 436959
Email Secr.general@airengineers.org

John Alldis AEI PR officer
Email aeipr@shoal.net.au

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PRESS RELEASE.

Aircraft Engineers International is gravely concerned at the evidence of substandard maintenance that has been illustrated by recent media photographs of improperly rectified wiring loom defects in an Australian airline aircraft.

AEI has contact with CEEU and the ALAEA and neither of those organisations approve of this substandard repair nor, obviously, does the airline concerned. This type of repair is unacceptable in aircraft maintenance and is not approved by any Regulatory body in the world.

We believe that it is unhelpful for Aviation Travel writers to be apportioning blame in an area where they have no expertise. Rather the Regulatory Authorities of the respective countries should be assisting the unions to help raise the airline or maintenance repair station's (MRO's) standards back to the required international standard.

AEI Has been advocating for years that the National Aviation regulators should involve themselves more actively with aviation maintenance since the growing pressure on organisations to cut costs as a result of severe competition by low cost airlines.

Aviation is a safety critical industry yet unfortunately national authorities have become more and more bureaucratic and as such are paying less and less attention to maintenance activities on the shop floor. This unfortunately allows airlines and MRO's to place a higher priority on commercial interests rather than safety. This can and does lead to maintenance being performed by poorly trained staff, no longer supervised during or after completion of work.

Press release re QF wiring

The major element the public should understand with this incident was the decreased level of safety due to the inadequate repair.

The general public should also be made aware that company profits are often managements primary concern with maintenance considered an expensive nuisance. This type of attitude manifests itself as incidents. Such situations are becoming increasingly more common on a global level and are a cause of great concern to engineers within the industry.

Safety costs money but whichever way you look at this, safety will always be cheaper than an accident.

John Alldis JP IEng AMRAeS
AEI Public Relations Officer