

Interest Group Perspective: Flight Crews

Flight crews on modern commercial airliners are made up of pilots and flight attendants. Flight crews average a minimum of between 70 and 85 flight hours per month.

Use the websites below to gather information that will help you to research and defend a position for the town hall meeting on the question of whether the federal government should limit exposure to cosmic radiation on long-distance flights. Below are some questions to help guide your research.

- What economic impact might limits on flight crew flying hours have on flight crews?
 - *Would flight crews be willing to have their flying hours (and thus wages) limited by regulations?*
- Are the potential health risks from ionizing radiation significant enough that protection should be put in place?
 - *How significant are the health risks for flight crews?*
- If limits were put on only certain groups of people (e.g. pregnant women), are there concerns that airlines might discriminate against hiring certain people?
 - *What if certain groups of people were determined to be higher-risk than others in terms of effects of exposure to cosmic radiation?*
- Would an individual's right to privacy be compromised if she were forced to reveal a pregnancy earlier than intended due to limits imposed on flight hours?
 - *What is the balance between an individual's right to privacy vs. personal safety?*

Web links

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- **Exposure to cosmic radiation of British Airways flying crew on ultralonghaul routes – Occupational and Environmental Medicine, U.S. National Library of Medicine**
Information on cosmic radiation exposure during long-distance flight, along with ways to monitor exposure.
- **Galactic radiation exposure during commercial flights: Is there a risk? – Canadian Medical Association Journal, U.S. National Library of Medicine**
Examining the different types of galactic radiation and the risks of exposure during commercial flights.
- **Cosmic Radiation Exposure and Air Travel – Health Canada, Government of Canada**
Potential effects of exposure to cosmic radiation from long-distance flights.
- **Radiation: Quantities and Units of Ionizing Radiation – Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety**
Information on the measurement of and effects of exposure to ionizing radiation.

- **Measures for Managing Exposure to Cosmic Radiation of Employees Working on Board Aircraft – Transport Canada, Government of Canada**

This Commercial and Business Aviation Advisory Circular (CBAAC) recommends that air operators develop a program for managing the cosmic radiation exposure of employees who work on board aircraft.