

**Board of Pilot Commissioners for the Bays  
of San Francisco, San Pablo, and Suisun**

660 Davis Street., San Francisco, CA 94111  
Phone: (415) 397-2253 Fax: (415) 397-9463  
E-mail: allen.garfinkle@bopc.ca.gov  
www.bopc.ca.gov



March 25, 2021

To all BOPC licensees:

Re: Pilot Continuing Education

As you may be aware, the Board of Pilot Commissioners (Board) is facing challenges in providing timely continuing education to Board licensees. These challenges are primarily due to the pandemic, although not entirely.

Concerning manned-model training, while the border to European Union countries, and particularly France, is still not open for non-essential travel, the Board staff continues to monitor the situation for a change and remains in contact with the management at Artelia for the next opportunity to send pilots to their facility.

With regard to the Combination Course training offered at California State University Maritime Academy, we continue to work with their administration to establish an opportunity to hold the training course when the conditions will allow a safe working environment in the close confines of the simulator and classroom sessions.

It has come to my attention that there is some concern among Board licensees that the Board's inability to provide appropriate continuing education opportunities will result in a failure to meet license renewal requirements and an interruption in license continuity. I want to assure you that this is not the case.

At the December 2020 Board of Pilot Commissioners Board meeting I presented this issue to the Board. The following is contained in the minutes from that meeting:

Executive Director Garfinkle noted that title 7, California Code of Regulations, §215 gives the Board the option to suspend or revoke a pilot license if the required training was not completed, and that Continuing education training had not been made available by the Board to Board licensees since Spring 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Given the likelihood that the Board will not be able to provide the necessary training into 2021 and maybe beyond, he stated that he believes it is important for the Board to provide the pilots assurance that their licenses won't be revoked for lack of the required training due to no fault of their own. He assured the Board that staff will do its best to catch the pilots up on the required training when it becomes available, subject to any contractual and budgetary constraints.

MOTION: President Connolly moved that the Board affirm that it will not suspend or revoke a pilot license due to the Board's inability to provide training opportunities because of the COVID-19 pandemic, and directs the Executive Director to provide pilots with the required training as soon as feasible given any contractual or budgetary constraints. Commissioner Schmid seconded the motion.

VOTE: YES: Connolly, Carr, Hayes-White, Hoppes, Nyborg, Prada, and Schmid.  
NO: None.  
ABSTAIN: None.

ACTION: The motion was approved.

Board staff will make every effort to provide the mandated training when a viable option to complete the training presents itself. We will do our utmost to keep licensees apprised of these opportunities as they arise.

In the meantime, please rest assured that no action will be taken against a Board license for failure to complete training when that failure is due to the Board's inability to provide a suitable opportunity for the training.

If you have questions concerning this policy, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Respectfully,



Allen Garfinkle  
Executive Director