

OFFICIAL POSITION ON “NO ACCIDENTS CERTIFICATE” FOR PILOTS AND OTHER AVIATION PROFESSIONALS

In response to the growing numbers of pilots approaching Safety Investigation Authorities, including GPIAAF, seeking “No accidents certificates” to satisfy requests from airlines for employment procedures, GPIAAF as the Portuguese Safety Investigation Authority for aviation accidents adopted the following position:

1. ICAO Annex 13, Regulation (EU) no. 996/2010 and National Decree-Law 318/99, all protect the information gathered by the Safety Investigation Authority.
2. As per this legislation, this information must be exclusively used by the Safety Investigation Authorities for the sole purpose of preventing future accidents and improving safety, being limited the release of that information to third parties for other purposes. Furthermore, the reports of the Safety Investigation Authorities must not identify the personnel involved.
3. The requirement for a “no accidents certificate” seriously endangers one of the fundamental principles of safety which is the reporting of safety occurrences and is in opposition to the procedures of a just culture within the safety culture of the organizations, because this requirement will inevitable make pilots and other professionals reluctant to report unsafe events in which they were involved, therefore compromising the maintaining of safety. Therefore, the adequate selection of professionals by the organizations must rely in a robust internal process for assessing the candidates training, competences and fitness to the job.
4. Considering all the above, the applicable law compels GPIAAF to properly use the gathered information during the investigation process and to keep its protection status, and this kind of enquiries are not included in any of the provisions that would allow the communication to third parties.

For these reasons, GPIAAF does not issue “no accident certificates” or similar documents.

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The Director,