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Regional Express, AAPA raise concerns over cockpit recorder rule

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Regional Express and the Australian Airline Pilots' Association have raised concerns about proposed new rules relating to preserving cockpit voice recordings.

In the draft new "part 91" general operating and flight rules, the Civil Aviation Safety Authority extends a requirement to keep flight data and cockpit voice recordings after an "immediately reportable" matter is reported to the Australian Transport Safety Bureau.

But Regional Express has told CASA this "adds a burden that currently does not exist".

"Downloading of the recording is not possible for privacy reasons," the group says in a submission to CASA.

"This proposal would mean it would be mandatory for every event (for example) an airspace violation, unless timely advice that preservation was not required from the ATSB.

"Waiting up to 72 hours for this advice would add operational burden."

AAPA says it's "not entirely clear to us" that either the Transport Safety Investigation Act 2003 or the regulations authorise the ATSB to demand the recorder. "The inclusion of the recorder itself in this regulation is unjustified, if not *ultra vires*," it says.

Under the proposal, a requirement to hold on to recordings and recorders after an "immediately reportable" matter would be expanded.