



Transport Accident Investigation Commission (TAIC) Involved in an investigation?

What is TAIC?

It is a organisation, independent of the regulator, set up by government to determine the circumstances and causes of accidents and incidents, with a view to improve safety.

What powers does TAIC have?

The Commission has widespread powers to enable it to effectively investigate an accident.

What does TAIC investigate?

Air, rail and maritime accidents and incidents that have significant implications for transport safety.

How does TAIC investigate?

By observing and testing the physical evidence, and interviewing participants and witnesses. The evidence is then analysed and a report written.

Who does the investigation?

TAIC investigators, who are skilled and knowledgeable within their field; air pilots, train controllers, master mariners for example. They also have access to more specialised expertise should they require it.

When does TAIC investigate?

The investigation is started as soon as possible after an accident so that the evidence is fresh and memories are sharper.

What do you NEED to know before you are interviewed by TAIC?

TAIC does not seek to blame or discipline anyone.

TAIC interviews are confidential and protected by legislation.

TAIC recognises that after an accident or incident can be a stressful time. Consequently, you may wish to have a support person with you during the interview; this could be a relative, friend, work colleague or lawyer. You should note that if your employer offers you the services of a company lawyer, that lawyer might face a potential conflict of interest and could disclose sensitive information to your employer).

TAIC suggests that should you wish to be represented by a lawyer you should appoint your own or ask your union to arrange one on your behalf.

TAIC investigators would be agreeable to re-scheduling (within a reasonable amount of time) an interview if your preferred independent support person was not immediately available.

For more detailed information on TAIC investigations visit the following web site

<http://www.taic.org.nz/aboutus/guide.html>

[possible additional paragraph]

What happens after the interview

TAIC investigators usually record interviews. The recordings are transcribed (usually takes between 2 and 4 weeks). You will be sent a copy of the interview to check and amend.

The investigator writes a (preliminary) report, which is peer reviewed before being sent to the participants for their comments (usually 4 to 6 months after the accident). The investigator evaluates any comments received and amends the report as appropriate. The report is again peer reviewed before the final report is published (usually 6 to 8 months after the accident).

Safety recommendations usually arise from investigations; they may be made to the owner, the operator, the Safety Authority or a third party in an attempt to stop this or similar accidents recurring.