



EASA Safety Week



Pilot Flight Academy

EASA Safety Week – 23rd June 2021



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CEO/COO

About Pilot Flight Academy

Pilot Flight Academy

- Top modern International Flight Academy established in Sandefjord, Norway in 2007
- Providing a Competency based – “Airline-ready” pilot education programme
- Approximately 400 students from more than 15 countries
- 110 employees including 60 Flight Instructors
- One of the largest flight academies in Europe
- Focused on high quality pilot training
- Number of airline cadet programmes



Pilot Flight Academy



- 3 locations currently – 2 in Norway and 1 in Texas, USA
- New base being opened in Mainland Europe in 2021
- Predominantly offering Integrated ATPL courses with single engine flying completed in the USA
- Multi engine programme of I-ATPL has 106 hours on DA42
- Fleet of over 30 modern equipped aircraft and 6 simulators
- Own Part 145 and CAMO
- Modern student accommodation
- Approved for national student financing

COVID-19 Impact on Pilot Flight Academy

Pandemic Impact

- Enforced closure of Norway training locations for a total of 5 months
- March-June 2020 and April 2021 campus was closed with no student flying
- ATPL groundschool virtual learning been in place for a year, with only now returning to 50/50 classroom/virtual
- No government support except furlough of employees
- Number of COVID cases but mostly swiftly isolated and outbreaks prevented
- Motivation of employees and students challenging over time



Top Safety Issues

PFA Challenges on Return to Flying

- Students progress halted – loss of learning retention and lack of continuity
- Full risk assessment completed prior to return to activities
- Working with public health in making environment as safe as practical – mask wearing?
- How to restrict numbers of students on site
- Border restrictions limiting students and employees returning
- Virtual Classroom activities
- Controlling student behaviour!

Keeping COVID secure

- Hand sanitizer and hand wash stations
- Mask wearing at all times indoors and in aircraft/simulators
- Temperature checking at certain locations
- Limited numbers per room including planning room
- Full cleaning of aircraft between flights
- Deep cleaning of aircraft overnight
- Non-essential staff remote working
- Virtual classroom for theoretical ground school
- COVID testing provided on site
- Working with Public Health authorities in case of any positive test
- NAA working remote oversight



Skills and Knowledge Retention

- Student continuity of training critical for skills and knowledge retention and improvement
- Gaps in Integrated ATPL programme not ideal for students and hard to mitigate against
- Difficulty in maintaining motivation through closed period to continue learning
- Individual refresher training required dependent on stage of training



Mental Health and Wellbeing

- 2 distinct groups – Instructors and Students
- More of an issue for students
 - Financial concerns due to delays in training
 - Concerns of employment prospects
 - Unable to fully engage in the joy of learning to fly (mask wearing, lack of social interaction, private study etc.)
 - Hard to self study in virtual learning environment
- More of motivational challenge for Instructors with either virtual learning or getting back to full training engagement in flying
- Peer Support Programme developed and introduced

Virtual Classroom Feedback

Student Feedback

How well prepared do you feel for CAA exams? Please rate the statements below true or false.

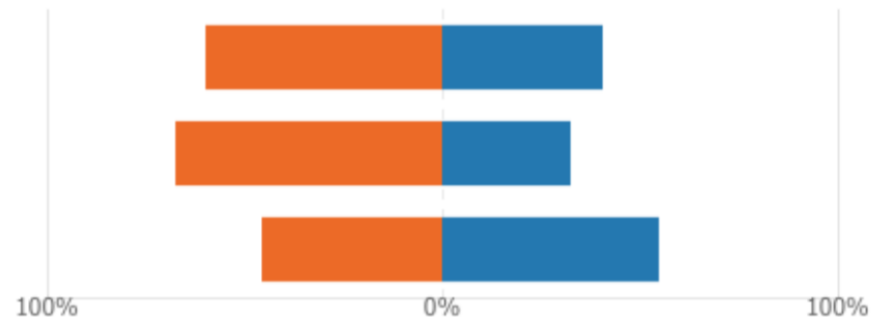
Number of responses: 77

True False

I feel well enough prepared based on the current training I receive.

I feel less prepared after doing partial training in virtual classroom than I would have had we done...

I feel I am more likely to fail my exams because of the current training given.



Lessons Learnt



- Maintain communication with all as regularly as possible
- Put in measures to support mental health challenges – Peer Support Programme
- Hold regular 1:1 discussions with students to check on their progress and motivation
- On shutdown of school consider MOC to review maintenance of the management of the ATO
- Having virtual learning approved for theoretical training by our Authority allows for future use if needed – with feedback some improvements can be made
- Importance of working closely with Authorities and maintaining regular dialogue

Lessons Learnt?



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