

The age 60 rule should be changed to the ICAO standard.

The comments have been running 4 to 1 in favor of the change. You will have to decide if the age 60 rule should be kept as a job saving/advancement program for junior pilots. Medical advances/fitness is far different today than it was in 1959.

I'm a MD11 Captain for FedEx and have read a few anti change comments from fellow FedEx pilots. All of the anti change comments are from very junior Captains or F/Os that require the rule to continue so those more senior to them will be forced out. At FedEx we have no furloughed pilots but some try to indicate the return of furloughed pilots is a concern. The FedEx training requirements due to expansion have exceeded the company's available training resources. Every month the company request pilots to sell back their vacations, all fleets. Some pilots experience traing problems, all ages. It has been mentioned that some pilots going back to S/O have struggled. These Captains have been forced back into an entry level position in order to remain employed. Most of these Captains have never served in that position, and if they have it was 20+ years ago. It is sort of like making a Federal Judge become a Law Clerk at age 60 if he still wants to work in the Court.

There have been a few comments form these FedEx pilots that pilots in their 50s have training problems. They have failed to say that some pilots in their 20s, 30s, 40s also have these problems. One individual said that the military forces their pilots out of the cockpit at around age 50. This may be true but it has nothing to do with performance in the cockpit it has to do with rank. In the military if the individual is still active he has reached the General/Flag Officer rank where pilot duties are not part of the job.

If you believe it is proper for the age 60 rule to be a jobs protection/advancement program for the young against the old the rule should remain age 60. If the merit of age 60 vs 65 for airline pilots in the year 2006 the rule should be changed to age 65 and serious consideration should be given to eliminating any age rule at some future date if data supports the elimination.