Key to an effective confidential reporting scheme is getting the right balance between disclosing information to improve transport safety while maintaining confidentiality to protect a person’s identity.

The Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB) invites comments to help it get this balance right. The ATSB is particularly interested in any concerns readers have about the proposed reforms—whether they agree with the new regulations or would like to see more changes.

Confidential reporting or REPCON is an essential part of the ATSB’s transport investigation process. It allows anyone aware of a safety issue to report it to the ATSB without fear of recrimination. Confidentiality protections are an important part of the scheme. The ATSB uses the information from REPCON to complement other information sources and to raise awareness of safety issues in the industry.

**Getting the right balance**

Key to an effective confidential reporting scheme is getting the right balance between disclosing information to improve transport safety while maintaining confidentiality to protect a person’s identity.


**Important dates to remember**

The consultation on the draft regulations for confidential reporting closes on 16th December 2011. The ATSB also plans to hold a second round of consultation with stakeholders in early 2012. The ATSB plans for the new Regulations to take effect in 2013.