

[Dr. Robert Baron](#) is the President and Chief Consultant of [The Aviation Consulting Group](#). He performs extensive work in his core specializations of Human Factors (HF), Safety Management Systems (SMS), Crew Resource Management (CRM), and Line Operations Safety Audit (LOSA). He consults with, and provides training to, hundreds of aviation organizations on a worldwide basis.

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Can You Live With It?

You are working in the maintenance hangar and you notice that a few of your colleagues are signing off inspections as complete when in fact no such inspections were done. Now what do you do?

1. Conform to the norm (do what they are doing because, even though it's wrong, it's more comfortable to "go with the flow.")
2. Ignore it.
3. Speak to them individually and try to talk some sense into them.
4. Report these deviations directly to the safety department and/or supervisor.
5. Go directly to the FAA and become a "whistleblower." After all, whistleblowers are provided protection against job sanctions when they are reporting legitimate safety concerns (this program is more common in the United States).

It's a tough decision that will be based on moral, ethical, legal and regulatory concerns. Each choice comes with its own potential problems and challenges. Most people, on paper, would probably pick choice 3 because it seems the most "socially acceptable"—kind of a middle ground. However, in real life, we know that choices 1 and 2 are more common. This is based, historically, on numerous accidents that were caused by maintenance errors. Choices 1 and 2 are selected because they cause us the least amount of angst. Choices 4 and 5 are more aggressive

and there are certainly people that take that approach. The problem they may encounter is that they may become viewed as chronic complainers and whiners. In fact, you may know of someone that "no longer had their services required" for this very reason. They were terminated because they were reporting significant safety issues that were going ignored. A case where the employee, instead of being a *solution* to the problem, became *part* of the problem (in the organization's eyes).

Moral of the story: Think about your decisions and actions. If you become part of the normalization of deviance or you ignore the problem completely then you will share culpability if lives are lost. Can you live with it? Some mechanics could not.