

## Re: Excess astronauts -- what must be done

**Source:** <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.space.shuttle/2005-03/0097.html>

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**Date:** 03/08/05

Date: Tue, 8 Mar 2005 10:14:40 -0000

"Brian Gaff" wrote ...

> *I don't know about your laws re age discrimination etc, but I'd suspect  
> doing as you suggest may well not be legally possible. They will point to  
> the fact that people are staying fitter longer and tell you to go away!*

I believe there's a lot of controversy about mandatory retirement ages for commercial pilots.

Two things:-

1. Some things do get worse when you get older (although when, what and how much varies).
2. Retirement is not based on an objective assessment of the individual pilot's actual condition/ability. (In fact I think there is some fudge relating to pensions that means a bunch of them will be able to work for five more years than the rest).

I would hope policy for astronauts will be rather better – although I'm not holding out much hope.