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AEROSPACE RECOMMENDED PRACTICE

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EMERGENCY FLotation EQUIPMENT

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this recommended practice is to establish criteria for installations which will ensure rapid and effective use of emergency flotation equipment in the event of ditching.

2. DEFINITION

This Aerospace Recommended Practice concerns emergency flotation equipment devices, required by the Federal Air Regulations, which passengers and crew members may be required to obtain and operate in a ditching situation. This involves individual flotation devices, life rafts (or combination slide/life rafts) including accessory survival gear, and auxiliary flotation equipment.

NOTE: It is not the purpose of this Aeronautical Recommended Practice to specify the design method or specific mechanism or equipment to be used in accomplishment of the objectives set forth herein.

3. DETAIL RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 Individual Flotation Devices:

- 3.1.1 The installed location of each device should be clearly indicated to the occupant when seated.
- 3.1.2 The installation should permit ready removal of the device from its stowed position by the occupant while in a seated position and with seat belt fastened.
- 3.1.3 Additional individual flotation devices should be provided for cabin occupants who may not be occupying their normal seats, i. e., seated in lounges, etc., where occupancy of such seats is approved for landing, take-off or planned ditching stations. Individual flotation devices should also be provided for children.
- 3.1.4 The individual flotation device stowage facility should be designed to prevent the possibility of access to the device becoming obstructed by such items as underseat baggage or seat upholstery attachments. It should likewise be designed to preclude the possibility of interference or confusion with other aircraft equipment, i. e., oxygen masks.
- 3.1.5 The time required to don the individual flotation device should not be significantly extended by virtue of secondary packaging arrangements, i. e., protective containers, securing devices or safety seals.
- 3.1.6 Stowage facilities for these individual flotation devices should provide protection from damage incident to normal wear and tear, tampering and inadvertent puncturing. Stowage should be accomplished in such a manner as to facilitate inspection for continued presence of unit, condition and necessary other inspection data without disturbing the packaged device.

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