



AEROSPACE RECOMMENDED PRACTICE

ARP5655™**REV. A**

Issued 2009-01
Reaffirmed 2014-05
Cancelled 2023-06

Superseded by ARP1384

Safety Briefings for Passengers in Exit Rows

RATIONALE

This document is cancelled and the information contained therein is now incorporated into ARP1384.

CANCELLATION NOTICE

This technical report has been declared "CANCELLED" as of June 2023 and has been superseded by ARP1384. By this action, this document will remain listed in the respective index, if applicable. Cancelled technical reports are available from SAE.

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1. SCOPE

This SAE ARP provides guidance for (1) ensuring passenger suitability for being seated in an exit row and (2) the standardization of safety briefings for passengers, seated at exits, who may be responsible for opening exits on transport airplanes during an emergency. This recommendation is primarily for briefing passengers seated in the Type III overwing exit row, but may be applied to briefing passengers responsible for other exit types. In addition, these recommendations pertain to briefings on airplanes on which the flight attendants would conduct the exit row briefing, *and* to briefings on airplanes without flight attendants, on which pilots would conduct the briefing.

2. REFERENCES

2.1 Related Publications

The following publications are provided for information purposes. Nothing in this document supersedes applicable laws and regulations.

2.1.1 SAE Publications

Available from SAE International, 400 Commonwealth Drive, Warrendale, PA 15096-0001, Tel: 877-606-7323 (inside USA and Canada) or 724-776-4970 (outside USA), www.sae.org.

ARP1384 Passenger Safety Information Briefing Cards and Video Briefings

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2.1.2 FAA Publications

Available from Federal Aviation Administration, 800 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20591, Tel: 866-835-5322, www.faa.gov.

FAA Advisory Circular (AC) 121-24C, Passenger Safety Information Briefing and Briefing Cards

U. S. Code of Federal Regulations, Title 14, § 25.813 Emergency exit access

U. S. Code of Federal Regulations, Title 14, § 121.585, 135.129 Exit seating

U. S. Code of Federal Regulations, Title 14, § 121.571 Briefing passengers before takeoff; § 125.327, 135.117 Briefing of passengers before flight

Air Transportation Operations Inspector's Handbook 8400.10, Volume 3, Chapter 16, Section 6, Paragraph 2407

2.1.3 NTSB Publications

Available from National Technical Information Service, Springfield, VA 22161.

NTSB/SS-85/09 Safety Study – Airline Passenger Safety Education: A Review of Methods Used to Present Safety Information

NTSB/SS-00/01 Safety Study – Emergency Evacuation of Commercial Airplanes

2.1.4 CAR Publications

Available from Government of Canada Publications, Publishing and Depository Services, Ottawa, Canada K1A 0S9.

Canadian Aviation Regulations §705.43, 704.34 Briefing of Passengers

Flight Attendant Training Standard TP 12296E, 7.2 Passenger Briefing Drills

Advisory Circular 0181R, Passenger Seating Requirements

Advisory Circular 0188, Passenger Safety Briefings

2.1.5 Transportation Safety Board of Canada Publications (TSB)

Available from TSB, 200 Promenade du Portage, Hull, Quebec K1A 1K8.

SA9501 A Safety Study of Evacuations of Large, Passenger-Carrying Aircraft

2.2 Additional Information

Air Accident Investigation Branch (AAIB; 1988). Report on the accident to Boeing 737-236 Series I, G-BGJL at Manchester International Airport on 22 August 1985 (Aircraft Accident Report 8/88). London.

Chittum, C. B. and Lyne, P. J. (1991). The effects of passenger briefing on recall and utilization of safety-related information by adult passengers. (Memorandum No. AAM-630-91-3). FAA Civil Aerospace Medical Institute, Oklahoma City, OK.

Cobbett, A. M., Liston, P., and Muir, H. (2001). An investigation into methods of briefing passengers at Type III Exits, CAA Paper 2001/6. Civil Aviation Authority: London.

Crew Efforts Help Passengers Comprehend Safety Information, Cabin Crew Safety (November-December 2004), 39(6), Flight Safety Foundation: Alexandria, VA.

Gerwick, W. (2003). Taking exit row seating seriously, Journal of Air Law and Commerce, 68(2), 449-473.

Many Passengers in Exit Seats Benefit from Additional Briefings, Cabin Crew Safety (May-June 2001), 36(3), Flight Safety Foundation: Alexandria, VA.

McLean, G. A., Corbett, C. L., Larcher, K. G., McDown, J. R., Palmerton, D. A., Porter, K. A., Shaffstall, R. M., Odom, R. S. (2002). Access-to-egress I: Interactive effects of factors that control the emergency evacuation of naïve passengers through the transport airplane Type-III overwing exit (DOT/FAA/AM-02/16). NTIS: Springfield, VA 22161.

Parkinson, S. E. and Muir, H. (1995). The effect of training, overtraining and transfer of training on passenger performance in a simulated aircraft emergency. (Cranfield University, UK) Paper presented at the Southern California Safety Institute 12th Annual International Cabin Safety Symposium, Torrance, CA.

2.3 Definitions

Exit Row Seat: Each seat in a row of seats, facing the passageway from the center aisle to the exit, that passengers would have to pass to gain access to an exit.

Shall: Indicates a mandatory criterion.

Should: Indicates a criterion for which an alternative, including noncompliance, may be applied if it is documented and justified.

3. BACKGROUND

Evacuation delays, attributable to passenger inattention to safety materials and crewmember failure to ensure passengers' understanding of their responsibilities in emergency evacuations, hold a potential for drastic consequences. The difference between successful and unsuccessful emergency evacuations can be a matter of only a few seconds; thus, any delay by a passenger in opening an exit may have fatal effects (see NTSB/SS-85/09, 00/01; TSB SA9501; AAIB 8/88).

Many passengers request exit row seating because it offers more legroom, not because they want to bear the safety burden for their fellow travelers. Despite national aviation regulations related to the suitability of passengers permitted to occupy an exit row seat, crewmembers are not required to assess the passengers' understanding of critical procedures required for emergency evacuations that exit row passengers may need to perform. The U.S. Federal Aviation Administration "strongly encourages air carriers to require crew members to provide a preflight personal briefing to each passenger seated in an exit seat" (AC 121-24C) and the benefit of personal safety briefings has been demonstrated through research and practice, according to the National Transportation Safety Board.

Typically, however, exit-row briefings are minimal in nature and consist only of asking passengers if they are aware of being seated in an exit row and are comfortable with their potential safety duties. Passengers are then directed to the seat-pocket safety briefing cards, which they generally ignore (see NTSB/SS-00/01). Thus, exit row passengers fail to receive detailed briefings to prepare them for emergency evacuations, leaving them unaware of the actions they would need to take and the significance of those actions for their own safety, as well as that of their fellow passengers. This ARP provides recommendations for briefing passengers in exit rows to overcome this deficiency.