

NTSB Recommendation A-83-072

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Rec #: A-83-072

NTSB Status: Closed - Acceptable Action

Issue date: 10/31/1983

Accident Date: 6/2/1983

Source Event: ACCIDENT

Location: CINCINNATI Ohio

Mode: AVIATION

Most Wanted List: No

Closed date: 1/15/1986

Report Number: AAR-84-09

Accident ID: DCA83AA028

Background Synopsis:

THE NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD IS CONTINUING ITS INVESTIGATION OF THE ACCIDENT INVOLVING AIR CANADA FLIGHT 797 WHICH OCCURRED ON JUNE 2, 1983, WHEN THE FLIGHTCREW OF THE MCDONNELL DOUGLAS DC-9 AIRPLANE WAS FORCED TO MAKE AN EMERGENCY LANDING AT THE GREATER CINCINNATI AIRPORT BECAUSE OF AN IN-FLIGHT FIRE. THE INTERIOR MATERIALS OF THE AIRPLANE'S CABIN CONTINUED TO BURN AFTER THE LANDING. FIVE CREWMEMBERS AND 18 PASSENGERS WERE ABLE TO EVACUATE THE BURNING CABIN; THE REMAINING 23 PASSENGERS DIED IN THE FIRE. THE SAFETY BOARD'S INVESTIGATION HAS DETERMINED THAT THE FIRE BEGAN IN THE AIRPLANE'S LEFT REAR LAVATORY, BUT THE SOURCE OF IGNITION HAS NOT YET BEEN IDENTIFIED. TO PROMOTE A COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM TO ADDRESS THE POTENTIALLY HAZARDOUS SITUATION POSED BY IN-FLIGHT FIRES, THE SAFETY BOARD IS ISSUING NEW SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS RATHER THAN REITERATING RELEVANT SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS PREVIOUSLY ISSUED TO THE FAA.

Recommendation:

THE NTSB RECOMMENDS THAT THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION: REQUIRE THAT THE HAND FIRE EXTINGUISHERS CARRIED ABOARD TRANSPORT CATEGORY AIRPLANES TO COMPLY WITH 14 CFR 25.851(A) USE A TECHNOLOGICALLY ADVANCED AGENT SUCH AS HALON EXTINGUISHANT.

Correspondence:

Response Date: 1/27/1984 From: Addressee

Response:

FAA LETTER: THE NPRM DEVELOPED BY THE FAA PROPOSES THAT AIRCRAFT WILL BE EQUIPPED WITH AT LEAST TWO HELON 1211 HAND HELD FIRE EXTINGUISHERS.

Response Date: 7/9/1984 From: NTSB

Response:

The FAA's May 17, 1984 NPRM proposing the incorporation of smoke or fire detection systems in each lavatory and galley, the installation of automatic fire extinguishers in each lavatory trash receptacle, and equipping aircraft with at least two Halon 1211 handheld fire extinguishers has the potential of complying with the intent of the Board's recommendation. These Safety Recommendations will be classified as "Open--Acceptable Action," pending the adoption of appropriate regulations.

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Response Date: 3/26/1985 From: Addressee

Response:

NEW FAR SECTION 121.308 (RE. LAVATORY FIRE PROTECTION) AMENDMENT ADOPTED 3/26/85. AFTER OCTOBER 29, 1985, AT LEAST TWO OF THE REQUIRED HAND FIRE EXTINGUISHERS INSTALLED IN THE AIRPLANE MUST CONTAIN HALON 1211 OR EQUIVALENT AS THE EXTINGUISHING AGENT.

Response Date: 1/15/1986 From: NTSB

Response:

We note that FAR section 121.309(c) has been revised to require that after April 29, 1986, at least two of the required hand fire extinguishers installed in the airplane must contain Halon 1211 or equivalent as the extinguishing agent. This recommendation is classified as "Closed--Acceptable Action."