

NTSB Recommendation A-83-075

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Rec #: A-83-075
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: 10/13/1987
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: AMEND 14 CFR 121.337 TO PRESCRIBE A MINIMUM NUMBER OF PORTABLE PROTECTIVE BREATHING APPARATUS WITH FULL FACE MASKS WHICH WILL BE CARRIED IN THE PASSENGER COMPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT CATEGORY AIRPLANCES READILY ACCESSIBLE TO CABIN ATTENDANTS AND FLIGHTDECK CREWS.

Correspondence:

Response Date: 1/27/1984 From: Addressee

Response:

FAA COMMENT: THE FAA IS CONSIDERING A POSSIBLE NEED FOR INCLUDING PROTECTIVE BREATHING EQUIPMENT STANDARDS IN THE OPERATING RULES OF 14 CFR 121. THIS IS CURRENTLY BEING ADDRESSED BY DEVELOPMENT OF AN NPRM IN WHICH TECHNICAL STANDARD ORDER (TSO) C99 OR EQUIVALENT MAY BE ADDED TO 14 CFR 121.337 OF THE OPERATING RULES. IN THE SAME NPRM, IT MAY BE PROPOSED THAT PROTECTIVE BREATHING EQUIPMENT MEETING TSO-C99 OR EQUIVALENT STANDARDS BE INSTALLED WITHIN 9 FEET OF EACH FIRE EXTINGUISHER REQUIRED BY 14 CFR 121.309(C)(4).

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Response Date: 7/9/1984 From: NTSB

Response:

The FAA's NPRM on this issue would meet the intent of these two recommendations. The Safety Board wishes to reemphasize its belief that adequate protective breathing equipment, including smoke goggles, must comply with Technical Standard Order (TSO) C99 and that portable breathing apparatus, with full face masks, are essential on board transport category aircraft. These Safety Recommendations will be classified as "Open--Acceptable Action" pending review and final disposition of the FAA's proposed NPRM.

Response Date: 8/25/1987 From: Addressee

Response:

ON MAY 26, 1987, THE FAA ISSUED A FINAL RULE (DOCKET NO. 24792; AMENDMENT NO. 121-193) WHICH AMENDS 14 CFR PART 121 TO REQUIRE PROTECTIVE BREATHING EQUIPMENT FOR CREWMEMBERS.

Response Date: 10/13/1987 From: NTSB

Response:

The Safety Board has reviewed the amendments to 14 CFR 121 which addresses the above two recommendations. The Board finds that these changes to 14 CFR 121.337 comply with the intent of the recommendations and therefore has classified Safety Recommendations A-83-74 and -75 as "Closed--Acceptable Action."