

Safe Carriage of Impaired and Disabled Passengers

RATIONALE

The technical requirements of this document have been superseded by EASA publication of EASA.2008.C.25, Carriage by Air of Special Categories of Passengers.

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1. PURPOSE: This AIR defines the major groups of impairments and disabilities among passengers who use aircraft as a transportation mode, and the types of safety problems which might be associated with each impairment. These impairments, and their safety-related problems, should be considered when referring to ARP's related to the design of cabin furnishings and equipment.
2. TYPE OF IMPAIRMENTS: There is a variety of impairments amongst the traveling public, any one of which could put a passenger at a disadvantage in certain cabin emergencies. Some physical conditions not normally classified as handicaps (e.g., obesity) may cause safety problems not only for the affected passenger, but for others as well. The impairment may be either temporary or long term.

IMPAIRMENT

POTENTIAL SAFETY PROBLEM

Partial or Total Blindness

Difficulty in:

- Seeing flight attendant demonstration
- Reading safety card
- Seeing advisory safety messages
- Orienting oneself within the cabin
- Seeing exit signs and emergency escape routes during evacuation
- Seeing instructional placards on emergency equipment

Partial or Total Deafness

Difficulty in:

- Hearing flight attendant briefing
- Hearing safety advisory messages
- Hearing commands during emergencies

Speech Impairment

Difficulty in expressing need for assistance or calling for help in cabin

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2. (Continued):

Reduced Strength, Mobility, or Loss of Legs	Inability to be retained by the safety belt only, or to move quickly to an exit during an evacuation
Reduced Strength, Mobility, or Loss of Arms	Difficulty in using safety belts, oxygen masks, life jackets, operating exit handles, removing hatches, and assuming brace positions
Medical impairments (cardio-pulmonary, diabetic, etc.)	Difficulty in getting adequate oxygen during decompression, collapse under stress of emergency
Emotional/Intellectual Disabilities	Inability to understand or respond to emergency situations Inability to comprehend emergency instructions to move to an exit during an evacuation Difficulty in using safety belts, oxygen masks, life jackets, operating exit handles, removing hatches, and assuming brace positions
Faulty coordination (Palsy)	Difficulty in using safety belts, oxygen masks, seat back and tray table operation, exit operation, life jackets
Size/Weight	Large people, including many pregnant women, may have difficulty using safety belts, assuming brace positions, and moving to and through exits Children and infants may have difficulty using safety belts, oxygen masks, life jackets, assuming brace positions, responding to emergency situations, seeing or understanding safety messages, operating exit handles, or removing hatches

An impaired passenger may also be accompanied by one or more of the following, which may affect the safety of the impaired passenger or others:

Cane or Crutches
Braces, Casts or Splints
Guide Dogs (Seeing or Hearing)
Oxygen Bottle or Other Life Support Device
Electronic Device
Wheelchair or Aisle chair
Artificial Limbs
Stretcher with Support Systems