



Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore

Safety Information Bulletin

CAAS SIB No.	2020-03
Issued	04 December 2020
Subject	Carriage of dangerous goods cargo and postal mail in passenger aircraft repurposed for the carriage of cargo.
Ref. Publication(s)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) ICAO Airworthiness of aircraft - Repurposing aircraft passenger cabin for transport of cargo; 2) IATA Guidance for the transport of cargo and mail on aircraft configured for the carriage of passengers, Ed3, 04 May 2020; 3) EASA Guidelines, Transport of cargo in passenger compartment, Exemption under article 71(1) of regulation (EU) 2018/1139 (The basic regulation); Issue 5, Cologne, 19 November 2020; 4) FAA Safety Alerts for Operators, SAFO 20008, 15 April 2020, transporting cargo transport-category airplanes configured to carry passengers.
Purpose	This SIB is issued to remind ground handling agents and air operators on prohibition in the loading and transport of dangerous goods cargo and postal mail in the passenger cabin of aircraft repurposed for the carriage of cargo.
Applicability	All air operators operating aircraft to or from Singapore and ground handling agents in Singapore.
Cancellation	This is the first issuance of this subject.
Description	<p>Due to the shortage of passenger flights during this COVID-19 pandemic, many air operators have repurposed their passenger aircraft to transport cargo in order to meet demand from the supply chain of goods. Such aircraft provide for cargo to be loaded in the passenger cabin either on passenger seats or with seats removed according to the operational approvals granted by the States of air operators.</p> <p>The fire detection and suppression systems of passenger aircraft cabins are not suited for the purpose of mitigating a fire originating from dangerous goods cargo. Unless special arrangements have been made with postal operators to ensure that mail articles do not contain dangerous goods, it has to be assumed that postal mail may contain dangerous goods.</p>

Consequently, air operators and its ground handling agents should be aware that dangerous goods cargo are prohibited to be carried in the passenger cabin of passenger aircraft repurposed for the transport of cargo.

Dangerous goods and postal mail may still be transported in the cargo holds of such aircraft according to the operational approvals granted by the States of air operators.

Recommendation

Considering the safety risk in the carriage of dangerous goods in the passenger cabin of repurposed aircraft, it is recommended that:

1. Air operators take the necessary measures to ensure that dangerous goods (including equipment containing lithium batteries and hand sanitizers containing alcohol) are not loaded as cargo in the passenger cabin of its aircraft;
2. Air operators should take the necessary measures to ensure that postal mail are not loaded in the passenger cabin of its aircraft, unless an air operator has made special arrangements with postal operators to ensure that mail articles do not contain dangerous goods, through alternative mail handling processes;
3. Air operators who wish to transport Cargo Aircraft Only (CAO) dangerous goods in the cargo compartment of repurposed passenger aircraft should seek approval from the civil aviation authority of its State of the air operator.
4. Ground handling agents should brief their staff to ensure that dangerous goods cargo and postal mail containing dangerous goods are not loaded in the passenger cabin of aircraft operated by its customers.

Contact(s)

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