

**DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION  
MALAYSIA  
AIRWORTHINESS NOTICE**

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Date: 1 September 1994

**AIRCRAFT SEATS AND BERTHS -- RESISTANCE TO FIRE**

**1. Applicability**

- 1.1 All seats and berths (except seats located within the flight deck) installed in Malaysian registered aircraft (aeroplanes and rotorcraft) with MTWA above 5700 kg for which a Type Certificate was issued by any ICAO Contracting State on or after 1st January, 1958 and certificated in the Transport Category (Passenger).
- 1.2 For the purpose of this Notice the term berths is taken to include such items as:-
- (a) berth and stretcher mattresses,
  - (b) couch cushion assemblies,
  - (c) other similar upholstery assemblies.

**2. Introduction**

- 2.1 Research into post-crash fire survivability has demonstrated that the overall flammability of seat upholstery materials is an important, and in many cases a dominant, factor in the rate at which fire spreads through the cabin. Present-day seat cushions are typically constructed of flame-resistant polyurethane foam over which there is an upholstery covering. Fire tests have already demonstrated how, by encapsulating the seat cushion with a fire-blocking layer, the onset of ignition of the foam core can be delayed and thereby survival time within the fuselage can be extended.
- 2.2 The DCA is therefore introducing the same requirements as those recently issued by the FAA and the CAA.

**3. Requirements**

- 3.1 Seats and berths included in paragraph 1 of this Notice shall comply with the flammability requirements for aircraft seat cushions specified in FAR Part 25, Appendix F, Part II (at amendment 25-59) or an equivalent fire test criteria agreed with the DCA.
- 3.2 It should be noted that this requirement is in addition to existing upholstery flammability test requirements e.g. FAR 25.853 or CAA Specification No. 8

Note: The documents listed above are available for review at the office of the DCA Airworthiness Division.

**4. Compliance**

- 4.1 Aircraft on the Malaysian register at 1 April 1987 :- the requirements of paragraph 3 of this Notice should have been complied with not later than 31 December, 1987.
- 4.2 Aircraft which are the subject of an application for Malaysian registration after 1 April, 1987 :- the requirements of paragraph of this Notice must be complied with as a condition for the issue of a Certificate of Airworthiness.

**5. Cancellation**

This Notice cancels Airworthiness Notice No. 39 Issue 1, dated 1 April 1987 which should be destroyed.

DIRECTOR GENERAL  
DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION  
MALAYSIA