

Memorandum

U. S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Aviation
Administration**

Subject: **INFORMATION:** Guidance, Compliance with § 25.854,
Lavatory Fire Protection

Date:

From: Manager, Transport Standards Staff, ANM-110

Reply to
Attn. of: Policy Ltr. TAD-97-003

To: SEE DISTRIBUTION

The following information is being distributed in support of certification of lavatory fire extinguishers to satisfy 14 CFR parts 25.854(b) and 121.308(b).

Sections 25.854(b) and 121.308(b) require that each lavatory on passenger-carrying transport category airplanes be equipped with a built-in fire extinguisher for each disposal receptacle for towels, paper, or waste located within the lavatory. The fire extinguisher must be designed to discharge automatically into each disposal receptacle upon occurrence of a fire in the receptacle. Currently, although not required by airworthiness regulations, the typical aircraft lavatory disposal receptacle fire extinguisher uses halon as the fire extinguishing agent.

Halon production ceased as of January 1, 1994, under the provisions of the Montreal Protocol due to its identification as an ozone destroying compound. The FAA established the International Halon Replacement Working Group to help identify acceptable replacements for halons. A key aspect of this work is to define minimum performance standards which can be used to assess the performance of candidate replacement agents to assure that they will provide protection equivalent to halon. Standards are being developed for fire extinguishers used in: lavatory trash receptacles; cargo compartments; engines and auxiliary power units; and hand held extinguishers. The first of these minimum performance standards is published in report number DOT/FAA/AR-96/122, titled "Development of a Minimum Performance Standard for Lavatory Trash Receptacle Automatic Fire Extinguishers," dated February 1997.

The minimum performance standard in report DOT/FAA/AR-96/122 provides guidance on acceptable methods of compliance to § 25.854. The performance of an alternative agent needs to be measured against a standard test method. This document establishes fire load, trash disposal receptacle test article, test procedures, and pass/fail criteria for built-in extinguishers for lavatory disposal receptacles. The report is attached for use in certification testing of alternative agents to halon for lavatory trash receptacles.

It is recommended that your office share this information with interested parties within your region. If you wish to discuss this matter further, you may contact Kristin Larson, ANM-111, telephone (206) 227-1760.

Stewart R. Miller

Attachment

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