



Baggage Compartment Lights

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1. Applicability

Aircraft with baggage compartment lighting

2. Purpose

To provide guidance on the need to protect cargo and baggage from lighting heat and mechanical damage.

3. References

CASR 90.140 Cargo and baggage compartment lighting

4. Background

There have been incidents in Australia of baggage compartment smoke and fires, the source of ignition being traced to the baggage compartment lighting. In the US, an in-flight fire, traced to ignition of baggage by the baggage compartment lights, resulted in a crash in which the crew were killed.

In response to the incidents, airworthiness directives were issued and new requirements developed. The referenced regulation includes a requirement - if an aircraft has lighting within a cargo or baggage compartment - for the lamps:

- (a) to be protected against the possibility of accidental damage; and
- (b) designed so that any baggage placed adjacent to the lamp is not subjected to excessive heat.

5. Advice

The object of the requirement is to ensure that baggage compartment lights do not provide a source of ignition by being unprotected or unshielded from contact with any baggage.

The requirement can be satisfied in a variety of ways including ambient temperature lights, recessed lights or metal grills/shields covering the baggage compartment lights.

6. Enquiries

Enquiries with regard to the content of this Airworthiness Bulletin should be made via the direct link e-mail address:

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