

[4910-13]

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

Seat Certification Conference

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of public conference.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a public conference which is being held by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to present its views and hear comments from the public concerning issues relating to seat certification processes for transport category airplanes.

DATES: The conference will be held in Seattle, Washington, on September 16 - 17, beginning at 8:30 a.m.

REGISTRATION: Registration will begin at approximately 7:30 a.m. on Tuesday, September 16. Persons planning to attend the conference are encouraged to pre-register by contacting the person identified later in this notice as the contact for further information.

- **ADDRESSES:** The conference will be held at the Holiday Inn Select Hotel, One South Grady Way, Renton WA, 98055 telephone (425) 226-7700. A block of guest rooms has been reserved for the conference at the Holiday Inn Select Hotel at a group rate. This block of rooms will be held until September 10th. Persons planning on attending the conference should contact the hotel directly for reservations and identify themselves as participants in the FAA Public Technical Conference to ensure proper credit.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jim Cashdollar, FAA, Regulations Branch, ANM-115, Transport Airplane Directorate, Aircraft Certification Service, 1601 Lind Avenue SW., Renton, WA 98055-4056; telephone (425) 227-2785; facsimile (425) 227-1149.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Section 757 of Public Law (P.L.) 106-81, The Wendell H. Ford Aviation Investment and Reform Act for the 21st Century, required the FAA to establish a government-industry team to simplify the seat certification process in transport category airplanes. The FAA established this team and has been working for over two years to improve and simplify the process of seat certification in accordance with the Act. One of the team deliverables is the hosting of an annual conference that provides information to the public regarding accomplishments to date, and to promote standard application of requirements and certification processes. The initial meeting was held March 7, 2002.

Participation at the Conference

Although the primary purpose of the conference is to convey information regarding the simplification of seat certification processes, presentations by the public will be accommodated at the conference to the extent that time allows. Persons interested in presenting material or oral statements should submit their request along with their presentation materials to the FAA prior to August 15, 2003. Such requests should be submitted to the person listed under the heading FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT, as well as an estimate of time needed for the presentation. Requests received after August 15, 2003, will be considered and may be scheduled, time permitting, during the conference. Every effort will be made to accommodate as many presenters as possible in the time allotted.

Conference Agenda

An preliminary agenda will be available for review at the following website by July 1, 2003.

<http://www.faa.gov/certification/aircraft/index-tad.htm> The agenda posted on the conference website will be updated periodically, as conference participants provide further details of their presentations.

Conference Procedures

The following procedures are established to facilitate the conference:

- Attendance to the conference on September 16 and 17 is open to the public, but will be limited to the space available.
- There will be no admission fee or other charge to attend or participate in the conference. The opportunity to comment on the presentations will be available to all persons, subject to availability of time.
- The conference is primarily designed to provide information to the public concerning issues related to seat certification processes. As such, the conference will contain detailed presentations by FAA and Industry participants regarding the accomplishments to date, as well as explanations of recently published documents.
- The conference will be conducted in an informal and nonadversarial manner; however, the all participants may ask questions to clarify statements made during the presentations.
- Representatives of the FAA will preside over the conference. A panel of FAA and Industry personnel involved in this issue will be present.

- Statements made by FAA members of the conference panel are intended to facilitate discussion of the issues or to clarify issues and, unless stated as such, should not necessarily be construed as a position of the FAA.
- An individual, whether speaking in person or in a representative capacity on behalf of an organization, may be limited to a 10-minute statement. If possible, additional time may be allotted.
- The FAA will try to accommodate all questions, time permitting. However, the FAA reserves the right to exclude some questions, if necessary, to present a balance of viewpoints and issues.
- The FAA will review and consider all material presented by participants at the conference. Participants are requested to provide an electronic copy of all presentation materials for use during the conference. Hard copies may be provided to the audience at the discretion of the participant.

Issued in Renton, WA, on May 2003.

Ali Bahrami
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Transport Airplane Directorate
Aircraft Certification Service