

PREDEPARTURE CABIN EQUIPMENT CHECKS BY FLIGHT ATTENDANTS

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It has come to our attention, that some air carriers have assigned flight attendant tasks for making a predeparture check of the normal and emergency equipment in the passenger cabin. Some field offices have asked for an agency position relative to such equipment checks.

- a. In reviewing this situation, we found that in most cases the flight attendants on the wide-body aircraft have predeparture equipment check assignments. On the other aircraft, the predeparture check of passenger cabin normal/emergency equipment is sometimes shared between the flight crewmembers and flight attendants. In each case, the principal operations inspector (POI) indicated that the flight attendants received training on the equipment concerned and the appropriate procedures were contained in the operator's manual.
- b. When a certificate holder elects to have the flight attendants accomplish a predeparture check of normal and emergency equipment in the cabin, the POI should be fully aware of the specific tasks assigned to the flight attendants. These tasks should be reviewed to assure that they are not in the areas which require an airman certificate. Generally, the predeparture assignments of the flight attendants should be relative to the type of equipment used in connection with their regular and emergency duties. Appropriate initial and recurrent training should be required to ensure that flight attendants are properly qualified. Adequate procedures and instructions should also be included in the certificate holder's manual so that personnel concerned will be able to properly perform their assigned tasks.
- c. The assignment of the flight attendants by a certificate holder to conduct predeparture checks of the normal and emergency equipment in the cabin does not relieve the certificate holder from training flight crewmembers on the location and use of normal and emergency equipment in the passenger cabin.