Inspection of the Hardman Model 9500 and some other passenger seats installed on several aircraft models disclosed that the armrest in the upright/stowed position can protrude approximately 45 degrees aft of the seat back. This could present an obstacle between seat passageways in the event of an emergency evacuation obstructing the emergency exit access (reference Sections 121.310(f) and 121.311(d) of the Federal Aviation Regulations (FAR)).

a. Principal operations inspectors (POI) should advise all air carriers of the foregoing and urge them to emphasize to flight attendants that prior to takeoff and landing they verify that the armrests are in the normal forward/down position in order to ensure that they do not obstruct the passageway between the row or seats leading from the aisle to the emergency exit.