STANDUP BARS

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Standup bars on wide-bodied air carrier aircraft have caused considerable concern for the safety of passengers when turbulence is encountered. Our inspectors have observed that, on occasion, both passengers and flight attendants have disregarded the seatbelt sign when it was turned on and continued to congregate near the bar. This results in a potentially hazardous situation, not only for those passengers standing, but also for others seated in the area adjacent to the bar. From a safety viewpoint, whenever the seatbelt signs are on, all passengers, including those in the vicinity of the standup bar, should be secured in the seats.

a. Principal operations inspectors (POI) are requested to alert their assigned operators having standup bars installed in their aircraft of the above and urge that suitable instructions be issued to the flight attendants for their guidance. Inspectors should be alert to the seatbelt discipline procedures used by air carriers during enroute inspections and any deficiencies noted should be brought to the attention of the carrier for corrective action.