

219. AIR CARRIER OPERATIONS BULLETIN NO. 1-94-18

DOOR/SLIDE ARMING

(Formerly Air Carrier Operations Bulletin No. 1-76-4).

Crewmembers should be able to evacuate passengers from an aircraft whether it is moving on the surface or parked at the gate. In most cases, air carriers have followed the practice of requiring the passenger loading door to be armed as soon as the jetway or stairs were pulled back. Also, air carriers have armed all the doors before movement on the surface begins. Recent changes to the regulations have made these practices mandatory.

- a. In accordance with existing regulations, air carriers must have procedures to ensure that immediately after the stairs or jetway is pulled back from the airplane, at least one floor level exit is armed. At least one air carrier has expressed concern that this practice could result in an evacuation where the slide would be inflated and perhaps hit someone on the ground. If this concern is of primary importance to an air carrier, then the air carrier should have a policy which ensures that all ground vehicles are out of the possible “slide strike” area before the jetway or stairs are pulled back.
- b. In the past, the requirement stipulated that doors must be armed before the aircraft was taxied; however, the present requirements mandate that each floor level exit be armed before movement on the surface. The ideal time to arm the doors is immediately before the aircraft begins to move. It is also acceptable to have procedures so the doors are armed simultaneously with the start of pushback.
- c. Principal operations inspectors (POI) are requested to ensure that their assigned air carriers have procedures which are consistent with this bulletin.