

EMERGENCY EVACUATION ESCAPE ROUTES FROM OVERWING EXIT ON DC-9-10 AIRCRAFT

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The vortex generators on the wings of DC-9-10 aircraft are located so as to present a hazard to emergency evacuees seeking the most direct escape route from the overwing exits to the ground. There is room for one person to go between the vortex generators and the fuselage, and room for eight or ten abreast to go off the trailing edge of the wing outboard of the vortex generators. Since the leading edge of the wing is less than six feet from the ground, it also offers an acceptable escape route.

- a. The printed cards (required by Section 121.571(b) on DC-9-10 aircraft should indicate that the best escape route is over the trailing edge of the wing and flaps OUTBOARD of the vortex generators; however, leaving the wing over the leading edge is also acceptable. The card should also draw attention to the location of the vortex generators with a warning of the injury which may result from using that area as a slide.
- b. Principal Operations Inspectors of air carriers utilizing this type of aircraft should assure themselves that their assigned air carriers are cognizant of this problem and the printed instructions to passengers are in accordance with the above.