As a result of a DC-8-61 ditching demonstration, it was determined that the forward window overwing escape tapes on each side of the aircraft cannot be utilized as a life line during ditching. These forward escape tapes were found to be approximately 12” too short to reach the wing attach fittings located about midway of each wing. It was determined that the aft window overwing escape tapes on each side of the aircraft will reach the wing attach fitting.

a. Principal Operations Inspectors should assure that their assigned operator is apprised that all overwing escape tapes may not reach the wing attach fitting for use as a life line. The specific tape on each side of the aircraft that will reach its attach fitting should be so identified by the operator and this information be reflected in the Pilot’s Operating Manual, Stewardess Handbook and in the emergency training program.