

CREWMEMBERS PROCEDURES FOR ASSESSING DAMAGE TO AIRCRAFT INFLIGHT

(Formerly Air Carrier Operations Bulletin No. 74-3).

Investigation of an air carrier accident involving structural damage in flight revealed that the flight crewmembers did not assess the damage to the aircraft after the emergency was under initial control. In this accident, involving a cabin decompression, the flight crew was not informed by the flight attendants of the damage to the fuselage and galley or of the fire (caused by the oxygen generators) and smoke in the cabin. Flight crews of some other carriers who were questioned about their inflight emergency procedures also indicated that they do not have such procedures nor receive training on the subject. This has been evident in other accidents where the flight crew was unaware of the extent of damage. Accordingly, the NTSB recommended that air carriers establish a procedure for the assessment of aircraft damage resulting from in-flight emergencies.

- a. Principal Operations Inspectors should bring to the attention of their assigned air carriers the need to have procedures in their manuals for crewmembers to assess the damage following any inflight or ground emergency, incident, fire and/or system operations malfunction.
- b. Cabin crewmembers should be trained to report to the pilot-in-command any significant damage, particularly as it may relate to structure, life support equipment, malfunctions of emergency/normal systems in the cabin, fire, or situations that may be a potential threat to the safety of the passengers.
- c. Timely damage reporting by the cabin crew and assessment of the damage by the flight crew is necessary so that the pilot-in-command will be able to make a judgment as to the appropriate action to be taken.