

The AVS Senior Technical Experts Program (STEP)

Jeff Gardlin

Senior Technical Specialist – Aircraft Cabin Security and Survivability



Jeff Gardlin has served as an aerospace engineer at the FAA for 35 years, with a focus on survivability/security issues. Mr. Gardlin has earned international recognition by developing numerous regulatory standards, guidance documents, and research plans to enhance safety and improve occupant survivability. He has conducted training in these areas around the world, for other regulatory authorities, and the aviation industry. In addition, he has been involved in the type certification of more than a dozen transport category airplanes.

Mr. Gardlin has brought a systematic approach to all the elements of occupant safety, including survival of an impact, fire safety, and speed of evacuation. Through his outreach to industry and by conducting workshops, Mr. Gardlin has played a key role in the gradual integration of physical security measures into the larger spectrum of occupant survivability. Mr. Gardlin has also worked to strengthen the link between the underlying safety issues involving security and hazardous materials with aircraft certification standards.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, Mr. Gardlin played a key role in devising the standards and requirements that allowed for the carriage of cargo in transport airplane cabins. He also identified possible safety concerns with frequent disinfection of aircraft interiors and helped mitigate risk regarding carriage of the dry ice needed to preserve vaccines. These unprecedented actions enabled the speedy and essential delivery of supplies and vaccines to those in need around the world.

Mr. Gardlin earned his B.S. in Aeronautics and Astronautics from the University of Washington.