



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Aviation
Administration**

SAFO

Safety Alert for Operators

SAFO 08004
DATE 1/24/08

Flight Standards Service
Washington, DC

http://www.faa.gov/other_visit/aviation_industry/airline_operators/airline_safety/safo

A SAFO contains important safety information and may include recommended action. SAFO content should be especially valuable to air carriers in meeting their statutory duty to provide service with the highest possible degree of safety in the public interest. Besides the specific action recommended in a SAFO, an alternative action may be as effective in addressing the safety issue named in the SAFO.

Subject: Visibility and accessibility of seatbelts for Title 14 Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) Part 121 and Part 135 certificate holders.

Purpose: This SAFO is issued to remind operators of the requirement to ensure seatbelts at all seat positions are visible and accessible to passengers.

Background: On February 2, 2005, a Bombardier Challenger CL-600-1A11 ran off the departure end of runway 6 at Teterboro Airport (TEB), New Jersey. The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) investigation of this accident involving an on-demand passenger flight revealed some of the seatbelts were not visible to the passengers.

Following the investigation, the NTSB issued a number of safety recommendations, including the following recommendation to the FAA:

A-06-68. Require all 14 Code of Federal Regulations Part 135 certificate holders to ensure that seatbelts at all seat positions are visible and accessible to passengers before each flight.

Discussion: 14 CFR part 135 section 135.117 and part 121, section 121.571 require seat belts be secured about all passengers of all aircraft (except certain lighter-than-air aircraft) during specified phases of flight, and that the pilot in command ensure that the passengers are knowledgeable of the use of the seatbelts, and notified when to use them. To support compliance with this regulation, seatbelts at all seat positions must be visible and accessible to passengers before each flight.

Recommended Action: Directors of safety, directors of operations, directors of training, and crewmembers of passenger-carrying aircraft should ensure training, policies, and procedures are in force to comply with the intent of current regulations, requiring visible and readily accessible passenger seatbelts.

Questions concerning this SAFO should be directed to the Part 135 Air Carrier Operations Branch, AFS-250, at 202-267-8166.

Approved by: AFS-200