



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

SAFO

Safety Alert for Operators

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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. Besides the specific action recommended in a SAFO, an alternative action may be as effective in addressing the safety issue named in the SAFO. The contents of this document do not have the force and effect of law and are not meant to bind the public in any way. This document is intended only to provide clarity to the public regarding existing requirements under the law or agency policies.

Subject: Saircorp / Flight Boss Ltd. (Saircorp) Consoles.

Purpose: This SAFO serves to alert operators using a Saircorp console in Textron Aviation Inc. (previously Cessna Aircraft Company) Model 172-, 177-, 182-, 185-, 205-, 206-, 210-, 310-, 320-, 337-, and 340-series airplanes, as well as other manufacturers' aircraft, where the console is not fastened to the aircraft. In the event of an accident, hard landing, braking, or severe turbulence, movement of these hard metal cabinet consoles poses a significant risk to the safety of the pilot and occupants of the aircraft.

Background: The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) recently became aware of Saircorp consoles advertised and sold to fit certain Textron (Cessna) model aircraft, although they may be purchased and used in other airplanes as well. These consoles fit snugly between the pilots' seats and do not use mounting hardware to attach the console to the aircraft in any way. Even though Saircorp consoles are designed to fit specific aircraft models, none of the consoles have provisions for mounting to the aircraft. These consoles are sold as pilot carry-on accessories and do not have FAA design approval.

Placing Saircorp consoles between the pilots' seats often requires the removal of the existing fire extinguisher mounting bracket. The fire extinguisher may be relocated to an unsecured cup holder style tube in the back of the console. In this case, the fire extinguisher, if unsecured, may become a hazard. Similarly, when a portable oxygen bottle, fire extinguisher, power supply, computer display, manuals, or pilot accessories are placed in the console, they create a hazard due to the significant amount of unsecured weight. The console and extra loose items may be contrary to Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) §§ 23.2235(a)(1) (Structural strength) and 23.2270(a)(3) (Emergency conditions).

Possible hazards due to the console shifting in flight due to turbulence, hard landing, braking, or emergency condition include:

- Partial or total obscuration of the floor-mounted fuel selector;
- Interference with the throttle, mixture, and carburetor heat controls;
- Interference with or obscuration of the pitch trim controls;
- Interference with or obscuration of cowl flap controls;
- Unsecured fire extinguisher or obstructed access to the relocated fire extinguisher; and

- Unsecured items moving freely about the aircraft.



Examples of Saircorp Consoles

Recommended Action: Operators utilizing Saircorp consoles in Textron Aviation Inc. Model 172-, 177-, 182-, 185-, 205-, 206-, 210-, 310-, 320-, 337-, and 340-series airplanes as well as other manufacturers' aircraft where the console is not fastened to the aircraft should:

- Take appropriate preflight action to ensure that the console does not shift during aircraft operations;
- Take appropriate preflight action to ensure that the console does not interfere with or obscure aircraft controls;
- Minimize the number and weight of unsecured items placed in the console; and
- Secure heavier items such as oxygen and fire extinguisher bottles in approved carriers or to approved aircraft attaching points.

Contact: Questions or comments regarding this SAFO should be directed to the General Aviation and Commercial Division at 202-267-1100.