

'Passenger Assistance Systems (PAS) For Deployment Following An Aircraft Evacuation'

Currently, aircraft evacuation is considered to be complete when passengers reach ground level, typically at the foot of an evacuation slide. This is not a safe area however, apart from aircraft fire risks, potentially traumatised passengers can hinder ground fire fighting and rescue. Airport emergency plans to manage passengers generally do not become effective in the crucial minutes following an accident. The UK Civil Aviation Authority has commenced studies to consider how early intervention in passenger management may be possible, given the circumstances and resource limitations in typical accidents. The focus is on human factors aspects of passenger assistance systems, commencing with the portrayal of information in the cabin safety card through to passenger arrival at a point of safety. It is anticipated that post accident passenger management will become a significant regulatory area in the future, with 1,000 plus seat aircraft under consideration by industry.