

# **ARAC Materials Flammability Working Group Recommendations**

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The Aviation Rulemaking Advisory Committee (A R A C) was formed in 1991 to inform, assist and advise the FAA in support of the rulemaking process. The committee is made up of representatives from the many stakeholders in aviation. It is an extremely successful public/private collaboration for improving aviation safety and regulatory effectiveness. The FAA has sole responsibility to task the committee with work to be done.

The FAA proposed a new task in August, 2010: to form the Materials Flammability Working Group (MFWG). The group was to review a proposed new approach for revision of flammability regulations and make recommendations.

This new approach was an attempt to move from what has been a reactive set of regulations to a proactive safety framework. The FAA proposal was to completely rewrite and update the existing flammability regulations based on the expected fire threat. It attempts to base the flammability performance for different parts of the aircraft upon realistic threats that could occur in-flight or in a post-crash environment.

The objectives of the revision and consolidation are to establish threat-based flammability performance requirements that will:

- **Provide simpler regulations.**
- **Simplify compliance demonstrations.**
- **Maintain or improve aircraft safety in fire related incidents.**

This working group combined over 20 members drawn from regulatory authorities, airframe manufacturers, equipment manufacturers, and operators. Members were drawn not only from the United States, but broadly world-wide.

A review of the recommendations developed by the group will be presented, along with “lessons learned” in the development of the final report, and an overview of “next steps” arising from the Working Group’s activities.