The Tenth Triennial International Aircraft Fire and Cabin Safety Research Conference October 17 – October 20, 2022
Atlantic City, NJ

Presenters: Erin Hochschild & Michelle Albert

Affiliation: The Boeing Company, Cabin Safety

Moving Beyond the Moveable Armrest – Evaluating Design Features for Passenger Accessibility

Cabin features on board airplanes have long been limited in accommodating passengers with reduced mobility and other general accessibility needs. Currently, the most popular feature is the moveable seat armrest. Industry, though, is certainly capable of producing more complex designs that could accommodate and ease travel for a wider range of passengers, so why haven't these designs been implemented?

This presentation will evaluate different design features for passenger accessibility with respect to current cabin safety type design requirements, operational requirements, and the needs of passengers. We will take a look at different designs that have been considered including some challenges and successes for the future of implementing these designs. In addition, we will explore opportunities for general improvements in accessibility and ways in which barriers can be reduced. We hope that sharing this knowledge will inspire those in industry and government to continue finding ways to get new ideas onto airplanes and make air travel more accessible to all.