Considerations for a Future Appendix F



Federal Aviation Administration

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Current State

- Appendix F has grown and evolved over 40plus years
- Each successive revision has focused more specifically on a particular safety issue
- Many materials/parts are subject to multiple requirements
 - Because of different usage
 - Because more than one requirement applies



Current State cont.

- Appendix F has 7 'parts'
- Only part I establishes requirements based on material (as opposed to usage)
- All requirements permit 'other approved equivalent method'
- Current approach, whether by usage or material, is to list applicable parts explicitly



Main Factors in Establishing Flammability Requirement

• Nature of threat: principally

- Post Crash, or
- In flight

• Relative ability to mitigate: principally

- Accessible, or
- Inaccessible

• Potential contribution of the item, e.g., Contribute to

- Propagation
- Intensity
- Penetration



Test methods and their applicability

- Bunsen burner: post-crash, in-flight, accessible and inaccessible materials—six possible tests/criteria
- Oil Burner (seats): post-crash, in-flight, accessible materials—single test method
- Oil Burner (cargo liner): post-crash, inflight, accessible and inaccessible materials—single test method



Test methods and their applicability

- OSU/NBS Chambers: Post-crash, in-flight accessible materials—two test methods
- Radiant Panel: in-flight, inaccessible materials—single test method
- Oil Burner (insulation): post-crash inaccessible materials—single test method



Visual Representation of Current



Simplified Structure Might be

- Appendix F, Part:
- II: All cushions on seats, berths etc., in any location on the airplane.
- III: All cargo liners and other features for which that level of fire resistance is needed in flight (typically going to be inaccessible region with potential fire source and fire load)
- IV and V: All large surface area 'panels' in the passenger cabin (airplanes >19 pax)
- VI: Materials in inaccessible areas (insulation and downtstream ducts, wire, etc.) that could contribute to the propagation of a fire
- VII: Fire barrier in the lower half



Appendix F, Part I would become...

- Things not covered by parts II-VII that could contribute to the propagation of a fire
- Likely only 1 test method (for airplanes with >19 pax)
- Simplified method to qualify common things, such as adhesive used to bond two parts together (a 'fabricated part' is covered by one of the other tests)
- Fire containment



Advantages

- Simpler to establish which test is required
- Should not be as much (or any) overlap
- Criteria not subject to obsolescence with new materials
- Certain things could be qualified for general use without a specific application identified

Very likely would be addressed through some sort of industry group—ARC or ARAC

