

**ARAC Materials Flammability Working Group**  
**Continuation of Task**  
**(We're Getting the Band Back Together!!)**

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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 the original 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.

The purpose of the new approach was to move from the current reactive set of regulations, to a proactive safety framework. The FAA proposal was to completely rewrite and update the existing flammability regulations based upon realistic threats that could occur in-flight or in a post-crash environment.

The working group combined more than 20 members drawn from regulatory authorities, airframe manufacturers, equipment manufacturers, and operators world-wide. Our report on the proposed revision was issued in 2012.

Critical to the success of new regulations are positive effects on costs and benefits. In January, 2015, the FAA requested that the Working Group reconstitute to provide additional cost and benefit information. Our report was issued in January of 2016. We will present an overview of our report, notes on the ARAC Working Group process, and some personal (NOT official) thoughts on what comes next.