

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD
WASHINGTON, D.C.

ISSUED: December 5, 1974

Forwarded to:

Honorable Alexander P. Butterfield
Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
Washington, D. C. 20591

SAFETY RECOMMENDATION(S)

A-74-98

Because of a number of in-flight fires in lavatories of jet aircraft, on September 5, 1973, the National Transportation Safety Board submitted four recommendations to the Federal Aviation Administration.

In its letter of May 2, 1974, the FAA advised the Safety Board that several comprehensive programs were being initiated as a result of the recommendations. The Safety Board commends the FAA for the initiation of these programs.

However, recently two fires occurred in lavatory waste containers; one in a Boeing 747, reported in MRR 07294019 on July 17, 1974, and the other in a Boeing 727 reported in MRR 08234006 on August 9, 1974. In both cases, the fires were contained, and the aircraft were landed safely.

The Board has been informed that small, self-contained fire extinguishers can be installed in small compartments such as lavatory waste containers. These extinguishers are charged with a nontoxic agent and discharged automatically when the compartment temperature rises to a hazardous level. The cost of one extinguisher is below \$50, and installation is simple.

In view of the added protection from potentially dangerous in-flight fires which can be provided by these extinguishers, the National Transportation Safety Board recommends that the Federal Aviation Administration:

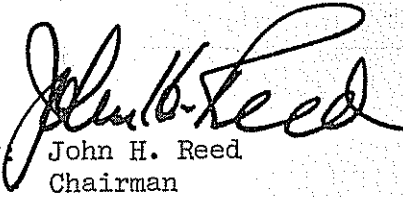
Require that automatic-discharge fire extinguishers be installed in lavatory waste paper containers on all transport aircraft.

1167B

Honorable Alexander P. Butterfield (2)

Our staff is available for further consultation in this matter.

REED, Chairman, McADAMS, THAYER, BURGESS, and HALEY, Members,
concurred in the above recommendation.


By: John H. Reed
Chairman

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SAFETY BOARD
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Washington, D.C. 20591

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