

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD
WASHINGTON, D.C.

ISSUED: February 7, 1978

Forwarded to:

Honorable Langhorne M. Bond
Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
Washington, D. C. 20591

SAFETY RECOMMENDATION(S)

A-78-2

On April 4, 1977, a Southern Airways, Inc., DC-9 crashed near New Hope, Georgia. During its investigation of the crash, the National Transportation Safety Board found that neither the forward nor the aft flight attendant seats in the passenger cabin were equipped with shoulder harnesses. Although the two occupants of these seats survived the accident, one of them was injured seriously.

As you know, the Safety Board recommended to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) on June 25, 1973, that 14 CFR 25 be amended to require provisions for shoulder harnesses at flight attendant seats and that 14 CFR 121 be amended to require shoulder harnesses to be installed at those seats in air carrier aircraft. (Recommendation A-73-40.) The Safety Board's rationale for this recommendation was that flight attendants should be provided with the best protection available during accidents, because their knowledge of emergency procedures and their leadership qualities could make the difference between survival and death for many passengers.

The Board reiterated its viewpoint when it submitted this recommendation for consideration at the First Biennial Airworthiness Review Program in December 1974. As a result, NPRM 75-31, Notice No. 8, which was published in the Federal Register on July 11, 1975, contained the proposed changes as recommended by the Safety Board in A-73-40.

Two and one-half years have passed since the FAA proposed the subject changes to the Federal Aviation Regulations; the original comment period on this NPRM has long since closed. We believe that

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further delay on this recommendation seriously affects passenger safety, and we believe that the time has come for the FAA to take steps to finalize its rulemaking efforts in this regard in the interest of safety.

Accordingly, the National Transportation Safety Board recommends that the Federal Aviation Administration:

Expedite its review of Recommendation A-73-40 with a view toward early requirement of properly designed shoulder harnesses at flight attendant stations in air carrier aircraft. (Class II - Priority Action)
(A-78-2)

BAILEY, Acting Chairman, McADAMS, HOGUE, and KING, Members concurred in the above recommendation.



By: Kay Bailey
Acting Chairman

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