AIRCRAFT SEATS AND BERTHS -- RESISTANCE TO FIRE

1. Applicability

1.1 All seats and berths (except seats located within the flight deck) installed in Malaysian registered aircraft (aeroplanes and rotorcraft) with MTWA above 5700 kg for which a Type Certificate was issued by any ICAO Contracting State on or after 1st January, 1958 and certificated in the Transport Category (Passenger).

1.2 For the purpose of this Notice the term berths is taken to include such items as:-

   (a) berth and stretcher mattresses,
   (b) couch cushion assemblies,
   (c) other similar upholstery assemblies.

2. Introduction

2.1 Research into post-crash fire survivability has demonstrated that the overall flammability of seat upholstery materials is an important, and in many cases a dominant, factor in the rate at which fire spreads through the cabin. Present-day seat cushions are typically constructed of flame-resistant polyurethane foam over which there is an upholstery covering. Fire tests have already demonstrated how, by encapsulating the seat cushion with a fire-blocking layer, the onset of ignition of the foam core can be delayed and thereby survival time within the fuselage can be extended.

2.2 The DCA is therefore introducing the same requirements as those recently issued by the FAA and the CAA.

3. Requirements

3.1 Seats and berths included in paragraph 1 of this Notice shall comply with the flammability requirements for aircraft seat cushions specified in FAR Part 25, Appendix F, Part II (at amendment 25-59) or an equivalent fire test criteria agreed with the DCA.

3.2 It should be noted that this requirement is in addition to existing upholstery flammability test requirements e.g. FAR 25.853 or CAA Specification No. 8

   Note: The documents listed above are available for review at the office of the DCA Airworthiness Division.

4. Compliance

4.1 Aircraft on the Malaysian register at 1 April 1987: the requirements of paragraph 3 of this Notice should have been complied with not later than 31 December, 1987.

4.2 Aircraft which are the subject of an application for Malaysian registration after 1 April, 1987: the requirements of paragraph of this Notice must be complied with as a condition for the issue of a Certificate of Airworthiness.

5. Cancellation

This Notice cancels Airworthiness Notice No. 39 Issue 1, dated 1 April 1987 which should be destroyed.