Subject: Procedures for Addressing Odors, Smoke and/or Fumes in Flight

Purpose: This SAFO serves to identify a need to enhance flight crew procedures that mitigate the risk to passengers and crew in the event of odors, smoke and/or fumes.

Background: Inflight odor, smoke and/or fume events can occur without overt visual and/or olfactory cues. To mitigate adverse health consequences to passengers and crew, prompt and decisive action is critical.

Discussion: Air carriers should ensure their procedures and checklists specifically address recognition, differentiation and mitigation of odors, smoke and/or fumes in the cabin and/or flight deck. Odors, smoke and/or fumes may be introduced to the cabin atmosphere as a result of aircraft equipment malfunction/failure or by inadvertent or intentional actions. While the presence of an odor alone does not necessarily require crew action or medical response, events involving odor, smoke and/or fumes require targeted and timely action to protect aircraft occupants.

Recommended Action: Operators, under their existing Safety Management System structure, should review their company’s odor, smoke and/or fumes procedures to ensure they address benign odor events as well as toxic odor, smoke and/or fumes, in an expeditious manner to limit exposure of passengers and crew. Operators should:

- Assess current policy and procedures regarding odor, smoke and/or fumes recognition, differentiation and mitigation;
- Collaborate with original equipment manufacturers, other operators and regulators to continuously enhance mitigation procedures and to identify potential risks; and
- Create guidance for crews including, when appropriate, security information which can be disseminated through appropriate internal channels (e.g. Sensitive Security Information bulletins, manuals, etc.) as specific concerns are identified.

Contact: Questions and/or comments regarding this SAFO should be directed to the Air Transportation Division’s Part 121 Air Carrier Operations Branch at 202-267-8166.