


OPERATIONS ADVISORY NOTICE (OAN)		 Transport Malta Civil Aviation Directorate Flight Operations Inspectorate Pantar Road, Lija, LJA2021 Malta
OAN Number: 09/2020	Issue Date: 14th September 2020	
Subject: Passenger Seating with ‘Direct Access’ to Emergency Exits Not Staffed by Cabin Crew Members.		

1.0 Introduction

Following the outcome of various cabin inspections which were conducted throughout the year, TM-CAD is issuing this OAN to re-iterate the Authority’s policy as applicable to aircraft type, concerning issues with regards to the occupancy of passenger seats with direct access to emergency exits where there is no cabin crew presence and the importance of carrying out a verbal pre-flight briefing for passengers seated adjacent to such exits.

2.0 General

This OAN is based on the Commission Regulation (EU) No 965/2012 and ICAO Doc 10086 – Manual on Information and Instructions for Passengers Safety.

AMC1 CAT.OP.MPA.170, requires the operator to provide an additional briefing to passengers occupying seats with direct access to emergency exits not staffed by cabin crew members on the operation and use of such exits.

The acceptable means of compliance, AMC1 CAT.OP.MPA.165, requires that passenger seats (or seat rows) with direct access are occupied during taxi, take-off and landing, unless this would be impracticable due to a low number of passengers or might negatively impact the mass and balance limitations.

The operator shall follow and abide with the acceptable means of compliance developed by the Agency as stated in AMC2 CAT.OP.MPA.165 and must detail the suitability criteria or restriction for certain categories of passengers in their operation manuals.

Operators shall ensure that, prior to the commencement of taxi, cabin crew members shall carry out an additional verbal briefing for passengers occupying seats with direct access to emergency exits not staffed by cabin crew members.

3.0 Elements of the Verbal Pre-Flight Briefing

The verbal elements of the pre-flight briefing shall consist of the following: -

- Cabin Crew Members shall verify that the passenger(s) is (are) able and willing to assist the crew in case of an emergency;
- Demonstrate the location and operation of the emergency exits;
- Comprehending the instructions for operating the exit;
- Knowing when to open the exit;
- Following all the instructions given by a crew member including the signal or command to evacuate;
- Check for hazards before opening the exit (i.e. fire, water, debris);
- Stowing (or otherwise disposing of) the exit hatch, if removable, so that it will not impede the use of the emergency exit.

4.0 Conclusion

The operator may elect to brief passengers seated at staffed exit rows (e.g., passenger seats at an emergency exit row located opposite to a cabin crew seat) covering the elements as listed in 3.0

The mentioned elements in 3.0 shall be documented in the operations manual and must be included during the verbal briefing.

Operators may opt to use a briefing card as an aid to conduct the briefing, however the briefing card **will not replace** the verbal briefing as stated above.

5.0 Applicability

This OAN is applicable to all operations where cabin crew are required to conduct safety related duties as established in the type certificate of the aircraft.

6.0 Action by the Operators

Operators are requested to abide by this OAN and shall ensure that all elements mentioned in 3.0 are documented in the Operations Manual. The requested procedures shall be submitted to TM-CAD by no later than 3 months from the publication of this advisory notice.