

Cabin Stowage of Personal Wheelchairs

RATIONALE

This document has been reaffirmed to comply with the SAE 5-year Review policy.

1. SCOPE:

This SAE Aerospace Information Report (AIR) provides guidance criteria for the storage of personal wheelchairs in the passenger compartment of transport category aircraft, which have not been provided by the air carrier and are designated for the sole use of the passenger requiring such assistance.

2. REFERENCES:

2.1 SAE Publications:

Available from SAE, 400 Commonwealth Drive, Warrendale, PA 15096-0001.

AIR1815 Safe Carriage of Passengers with Impairments and Disabilities
AIR4120 On-Board Wheelchairs for Passengers with Disabilities
ARP4387 Requirements of Passengers with Disabilities in Air Travel

2.2 U.S. Government Publications:

Available from Standardization Documents Order Desk, Building 4D, 700 Robbins Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19111-5094.

DOT Regulations CFR 387 [FAA 14 CFR Part 121]

3. TYPES OF CHAIRS:

3.1 Manually operated

3.1.1 Collapsible

3.1.2 Noncollapsible

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3.1.3 Sport Chair: Sport chairs are not considered collapsible but most of their major components are readily removable. Each wheel can be removed and the back of the seat can either be removed or folded down into the seat.

3.2 Powered

3.2.1 Collapsible

3.2.2 Partially collapsible

3.2.3 Noncollapsible

4. AIRCRAFT CABIN STOWAGE LOCATIONS:

4.1 Coat closet

4.2 Garment bag modules (floor level)

4.3 Miscellaneous stowage compartments

4.4 Miscellaneous storage areas

5. ACCEPTANCE:

5.1 Powered chairs, generally due to weight and size shall not be stowed in the passenger compartment.

5.2 Manually operated chairs that are not collapsible shall not be stowed in the passenger compartment, due to size and bulk.

5.3 Collapsible or sport chairs which can be folded or disassembled and conform to a maximum dimension of 12 in wide by 30 in long by 36 in high (with footrests removed) qualify for passenger compartment storage.

5.4 Sport chairs may also be stowed in the cargo compartment.

6. HANDLING PROCEDURE:

6.1 Remove footrests and other loose items as directed by the passenger.

6.2 As the passenger wishes, give these footrests and other loose items to the passenger or store them securely with the chair.

6.3 Collapse or disassemble the chair to its smallest dimensions. Secure the chair in its closed position with its own restraints or other suitable means.

6.4 Observe stowage compartment weight limits.