

Received

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U.S. Department
of Transportation

Federal Aviation
Administration

Office of the Administrator

800 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20591

President's Office

August 23, 2019

Ms. Lori L. Bassani
National President
Association of Professional Flight Attendants
1004 West Eules Blvd.
Eules, TX 76040

Dear Ms. Bassani:

Thank you for your May 8 letter to former Acting Administrator Elwell concerning emergency evacuation and the detrimental implications that carry-on baggage may have.

This issue is the subject of National Transportation Safety Board safety recommendation A-18-009. The recommendation asks the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to “Conduct research to (1) measure and evaluate the effects of carry-on baggage on passenger deplaning times and safety during an emergency evacuation, and (2) identify effective countermeasures to reduce any determined risks, and implement the countermeasures.”

The FAA is developing a study in response to these recommendations. The study will cover the understanding and retention of cabin safety information by passengers, emphasizing the prohibition on passengers from bringing their carry-on baggage to the exit in an emergency situation. The study will include consideration of flight attendant actions when confronting passengers attempting to evacuate with carry-on baggage.

This subject will also be addressed in the report to Congress required by Section 337 of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018. As stated in our response to your April 25, 2019 letter, Section 337 of the Act, Aircraft Cabin Evacuation Procedures, requires the FAA to review and report to Congress on issues related to evacuation certification of transport-category aircraft. In conducting this review, the section requires consultation with key stakeholders. The FAA is reviewing available data on evacuation standards and on April 24, 2019, we formed an Aviation Rulemaking Committee (ARC) to satisfy the consultation requirement. The FAA is in the process of identifying and inviting members to participate on the ARC. The FAA will make the ARC's findings and recommendations available to the public.

If I can be of further assistance, please contact me or Philip Newman, Assistant Administrator for Government and Industry Affairs, at (202) 267-3277.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Dickson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Steve Dickson
Administrator