



Aviation Group Client Update

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FAA PUBLISHES REPORT ON ALL-CARGO AIRCRAFT SECURITY AND SAFETY

Last month, FAA published a report reviewing the feasibility of developing means to prohibit individuals other than authorized flight crew members from accessing a flight deck on all-cargo aircraft. In particular, the report studied the viability of requiring physical barriers in the form of reinforced doors.

Currently, all-cargo carriers ferrying cargo into the U.S., within the domestic borders and out of the country, either install reinforced flight deck doors or have procedures that prevent entry of intruders or an explosive package onboard aircraft.

While FAA weighed the benefits and risks of adding a physical barrier, several operators opposed mandatory installation of reinforced doors. Commenters cited that application of reinforced flight deck doors was impractical and would compromise emergency egress. Others identified technical issues, such as rapid decompression, that would be difficult to address when retrofitting flight deck doors.

After reconsidering the need to mandate installation of reinforced doors as a physical barrier, FAA determined that having procedures as an option to the physical barrier provides the necessary security and safety for the crew and public. Presently, over 60 carriers opt to use procedures to secure crews and cargo from threats.

Comments related to the report are due on or before **September 12, 2012**. If you have any questions regarding all-cargo safety and security or would like help in the preparation or submission of comments, please contact our office.

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