

5/10/2006

**FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

2006-38/11-3

691843

To: Boeing Commercial Airplane Company

Info: FAA (AFS-230, AFS-200, AFS-300, AFS-900, ANM-100, SEA-AEG), AASC, AFA, AIA, ALPA, AMFA, APA, APFA, ASAP, ATA, CAPA, IFALPA, IAM, ICASS, IPA, NATA, NTSB, PAMA, SWAPA, TWU

From: Linda J. Connell, Director  
NASA Aviation Safety Reporting System

Re: MISSING PASSENGER LIFE VEST SEALS

We recently received an ASRS report describing a safety concern which may involve your area of operational responsibility. We do not have sufficient details to assess either the factual accuracy or possible gravity of the report. It is our policy to relay the reported information to the appropriate authority for evaluation and any necessary follow-up. We feel you should be aware of the enclosed deidentified report.

To properly assess the usefulness of our FYI service, we would appreciate it if you would take the time to give us your feedback on the value of the information that we have provided. Please contact Harvey Hartmann or Don Purdy at (408) 541-2800 or email at [hhartmann@mail.arc.nasa.gov](mailto:hhartmann@mail.arc.nasa.gov), [dpurdy@mail.arc.nasa.gov](mailto:dpurdy@mail.arc.nasa.gov).



Aviation Safety Reporting System  
385 Moffet Park Dr · Suite 200 · Sunnyvale · CA · 94089



## ACN: 691843

### Time

Date : 200603

Day : Tue

Local Time Of Day : 0601 To 1200

### Place

Locale Reference.Airport : ZZZ.Airport

State Reference : US

Altitude.AGL.Single Value : 0

### Environment

Flight Conditions : VMC

### Aircraft / 1

Make Model : B737 Undifferentiated or Other Model

### Person / 1

Function.Oversight : PIC

Function.Flight Crew : Captain

ASRS Report : 691843

### Person / 2

Function.Flight Crew : First Officer

ASRS Report : 691842

### Person / 3

Function.Flight Attendant : On Duty

### Person / 4

Function.Maintenance : Technician

### Events

Anomaly.Aircraft Equipment Problem : Less Severe

Anomaly.Maintenance Problem : Improper Documentation

Anomaly.Maintenance Problem : Improper Maintenance

Anomaly.Non Adherence : FAR

Anomaly.Non Adherence : Published Procedure

Independent Detector.Other.Other : 3

Resolatory Action.None Taken : Detected After The Fact

Consequence.Other : Maintenance Action

### Narrative

AFTER ARR AT GATE IN ZZZ, FLT ATTENDANT FOUND A SEAL MISSING ON A LIFE VEST. CALLED DISPATCH AND TALKED TO MAINT CTL TO MEL MISSING LIFE VEST SEAL. UPON FURTHER INSPECTION, FOUND A FEW OTHER SEALS MISSING ON LIFE VESTS. DECIDED TO DEPLANE PAX AND INSPECT ALL LIFE VEST SEALS WITH THE HELP OF CONTRACT MAINT. FOUND MANY MORE SEALS MISSING ON LIFE VESTS. CONTRACT MAINT COORDINATED WITH MAINT CTLR TO MEL MISSING LIFE VEST SEALS, CONTINUED FLT WITH MISSING SEALS MEL'ED. WHAT CAUSED EVENT: PAX RUBBING AGAINST SEALS WITH BAGS, ETC. HOW TO CORRECT SITUATION: PERHAPS STRONGER SEALS OR HAVE SEALS GUARDED FROM PAX RUBBING AGAINST THEM.

CALLBACK CONVERSATION WITH RPTR REVEALED THE FOLLOWING INFO: THE RPTR STATED THE CABIN ATTENDANT RPTED AN UNDER SEAT LIFE VEST SEAL WAS MISSING ON A VEST. THE SEAL IS A VERY FLIMSY TYPE OF TIE WRAP THAT CAN BE EASILY BE BROKEN. A CONTRACT TECHNICIAN WAS CALLED AND THE PAX DEPLANED. THE CONTRACT TECHNICIAN DISCOVERED MANY SEALS BROKEN OR MISSING, BEING DAMAGED BY PAX BAGS OR OTHER ITEMS PUSHED UNDER THE SEATS. RPTR NOTED THE THAT THE NEW LIFE VEST CONTAINER DID NOT PROTECT AS WELL AS PREVIOUS CANVAS BAG TYPE.

### **Synopsis**

A B737 CABIN ATTENDANT RPTS A MISSING SEAL ON A PAX LIFE VEST TO FLT CREW. FLT CREW INVESTIGATION REVEALS SEALS MISSING FROM MANY PAX LIFE VESTS.