

FUTURE TRENDS IN FIRE SAFETY RESEARCH A MANUFACTURER'S VIEW

Tremendous improvements in aircraft safety have been introduced since the past 20 years both through regulatory requirements and manufacturers and operators own self-imposed safety specifications. Thanks to that, air transport has become along the years, the safest means of mass transport ever.

Airbus has played an active role in aircraft fire safety improvement by participating in the development of regulations and introducing additional aircraft fire safety precautions in its products.

Recent events have shown that further effort in fire safety research is required in order to keep reducing the risk of accident. This is for example the case with potential fire threats in hidden areas. In the scope of fire detection and extinguishing, major areas of concern are the reduction of the number of false alarms and the development of a replacement for Halon.

Airbus has constructed dedicated aircraft fire safety research programs to meet these challenges, this paper will present and discuss Airbus effort in:

- Flammability of materials in hidden areas
- Smoke/fire detection systems
- Halon replacement
- Alternatives to oxygen on board – OBOGS