



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Aviation  
Administration**

# SAFO

Safety Alert for Operators

SAFO 05004  
DATE: 10/25/05

Flight Standards Service  
Washington, DC

[http://www.faa.gov/other\\_visit/aviation\\_industry/airline\\_operators/airline\\_safety/safo](http://www.faa.gov/other_visit/aviation_industry/airline_operators/airline_safety/safo)

*A SAFO contains important safety information and may include recommended action. SAFO content should be especially valuable to air carriers in meeting their statutory duty to provide service with the highest possible degree of safety in the public interest.*

**Subject:** Portable oxygen for flight attendants must be connected by November 28, 2005.

**Background:** On February 24, 1989, a Boeing 747-122 sustained a rapid decompression when the forward right cargo door separated from part of the cabin fuselage. The airplane returned to the departure point and landed. An emergency evacuation was conducted. Of the 355 occupants onboard at departure, nine were lost during the decompression; and one crewmember, 15 flight attendants, and 22 passengers were injured during the decompression and emergency evacuation.

Following the investigation, the NTSB's issued a number of safety recommendations, including the following recommendation to the FAA:

A-90-54. Amend Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) part 25, section 25.1447(c)(4), to require that face masks be attached to the regulators of portable emergency oxygen bottles.

**Discussion:** In 1996, the FAA initiated rulemaking to address this recommendation and other issues relating to cabin safety. That initiative resulted in a final rule issued on October 27, 2004, 14 CFR Parts 25 and 121, Miscellaneous Cabin Safety Changes; Final Rule.

<http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/06jun20041800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2004/pdf/04-23862.pdf>

The rule requires, in pertinent part, that each mask used by flight attendants as portable oxygen equipment must be connected to its oxygen supply (14 CFR part 121, section 121.333). This requirement is effective November 28, 2005.