

**Committee for a Study of the Technical Feasibility of Wheelchair Restraint  
Systems in Passenger Aircraft**

**Fourth Meeting, August 11-12, 2020**

**DRAFT PUBLIC AGENDA, August 11**

**10:15 Welcome and Introductions**

Alan Jette, Committee Chair

**10:30 AIRLINE PERSPECTIVE ON TECHNICAL FEASIBILITY**

*The purpose of this session is to continue gathering information from airlines about engineering and design issues to consider in assessing conditions under which it may be technically feasible to install and use wheelchair securement systems on passenger aircraft, and ways of addressing these issues.*

10:30 Bryan Parker, Interiors Engineering Manager, Southwest Airlines  
Johanna Reimer, Engineer, Southwest Airlines

10:45 Q&A

**Guiding Questions:**

- In what ways, if any, (such as research, concept development, design, analysis) has the airline addressed the engineering and technical challenges of allowing passengers to remain in their wheelchairs during flight? Has the airline evaluated potential locations for wheelchairs and associated interior layouts in various aircraft types in your fleet including narrow body, wide body and regional aircraft?
- What technical, engineering and certification challenges related to in-cabin wheelchairs might cause concern to an airline? Have any of these challenges been evaluated and/or addressed?
- Has the airline been involved with any industry committees, studies or conferences at which the preceding topics were discussed, and, if so, were technical solutions presented that the airline views as having serious potential for success?

**11:00 WHEELCHAIR INDUSTRY PERSPECTIVES ON PERSONAL WHEELCHAIR USE IN AIR TRAVEL**

*This session focuses on issues, opportunities, and challenges in the use of personal wheelchairs on passenger aircraft from the point of view of industry experts in wheelchair manufacturing and design.*

11:00 Ramakant Rambhatla, Vice President of Engineering and Chief Engineer, Invacare Corporation

11:15 Mark Greig, Vice President of Research and Development, Sunrise Medical

11:30 Q&A

**Guiding questions:**

- What are technical issues and challenges of using an approved personal wheelchair as a seat on passenger aircraft?
- What constraints would need to be considered in terms of wheelchair dimensions, weights, structural integrity, operational features (tilt/recline), and other characteristics?
- What would be the main issues in meeting relevant FAA requirements (e.g., dynamic testing)? [See attached summary of FAA regulations.]
- What operational steps would need to be taken for personal wheelchairs to be used with securement systems on passenger aircraft?
- What research and development efforts would be needed to address the challenges?

**11:45 BREAK****1:15 INTERPRETATIONS OF “EQUAL LEVEL OF SERVICE”**

The Committee’s statement of task asks the committee in addressing operational issues to consider: “How will airlines be able to use the systems to provide an equal level of service to air travelers with significant disabilities?” What are interpretations of “equal level of service”? In the history of ADA transit policy and rulemaking that led to wheelchair accessible service was “equal level of service” addressed as an issue, and if so how?

1:15 Mario Damiani, U.S. Access Board (Study Sponsor)  
Q&A

1:30 Heather Ansley, Associate Executive Director of Government Relations, Paralyzed Veterans of America  
Q&A

**2:00 PANEL ON OPERATIONAL ISSUES**

*This session focuses on issues of how to accommodate individuals effectively with wheelchair securement systems, and implications of the systems for passenger service operations. In this session, the committee seeks to learn from the perspectives of flight attendants, airlines, and contract service providers about the operational issues that would need consideration if securement systems should be technically feasible, and which may be the most challenging to address.*

**Flight Attendant Perspective**

2:00 Ronda Ruderman, Association of Flight Attendants; Flight Attendant, Alaska Airlines

2:15 Karen Holmes, Manager Inflight Safety Program, JetBlue

2:30 Q&A

**Airline Perspective**

2:45 Ray Prentice, Director, Customer Advocacy, Alaska Airlines

3:00 John Kloosterman, Director, Regulatory Affairs, United Airlines

3:15 Q&A

**Contract Service Provider Perspective**

3:30 Cindy Ford, Director of Compliance, G2 Secure Staff

3:45 Jo Ann Storie, Senior Vice President of Risk Management, Prospect Airport Services

4:00 Q&A

**Guiding Questions**

- What are the issues with respect to providing passengers with significant disabilities with a level of service equal to other passengers? (The other passengers may include those who do not use wheelchairs and those who use wheelchairs but are able and choose to sit in an airline seat.)
- What are operational implications of removing one or more aircraft seats to create space on the aircraft to secure a wheelchair?
- What are implications of installing the systems on use of aircraft doors, aisles, galleys, and lavatories?
- What are implications of the systems on: boarding and de-boarding procedures, staff training, reservation procedures, and treatment and handling of the batteries of power wheelchairs prior to and during flight?
- What additional issues would need attention?

**4:15 ADJOURN**