IFALPA
The Global Voice of Pilots

Position

18POS24

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Cabin Fumes

BACKGROUND

For most modern commercial jet aircraft, cabin air is taken directly from compressors in the engine compartments without filtering. Occasionally, oil fumes from the hot section of the engine and /or APU leak into this air, resulting in what is known as a fume event. This fact has been recognized by regulatory authorities, safety agencies, scientists, airlines, occupational doctors, oil manufacturers, and crew unions. A fume event may result in incapacitation of crew members and jeopardize flight safety, but some of the consequences of such leaks are still subject to debate. Immediate safety concerns resulting from an abnormal situation (fume events) should be differentiated from any potential short and long-term health effects.

IFALPA advocates bleed air free design as an ultimate solution. Meanwhile, filters and detection systems should be improved and installed. More information on Cabin Fume events can be found in the **Briefing Leaflet 18HUP-BL03, Cabin Fumes**.

POSITION

- **IFALPA is calling for better regulatory enforcement in relation to bleed air contamination.**
- **Effective and comprehensive reporting of fume events is paramount.**
- **A comprehensive and uniform medical assessment protocol after a fume event should be developed and implemented.**
- **Crews should be given basic and recurrent training on fume events.**
- **More medical/scientific research and results are needed on the long-term health effects of fume events along with clinical and epidemiological correlation.**
- **IFALPA advocates bleed air free design as an ultimate solution. Meanwhile, filters and detection systems should be improved and installed.**