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BARRY L HARRIS

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

Memorandum

Subject: ACTION: Policy Regarding Seat Belt Extender Approval.

Date:

From: Manager, Aircraft Engineering Division, AIR-100

Re: R. Kirsch
Attn: R. Kirsch
of: (202) 267-9565

To: Aircraft Certification Office Management Team
Standards Management Team

This policy is to obtain a standard method of testing seat belt extenders to the TSO performance requirements and clarify the markings so that it is clear that it can only be used with the parent seat belt.

1. The extender will be tested with its parent seatbelt to the TSO performance standard.
2. The extender will be included on the same drawing with the parent seatbelt, and will be assigned a dash number just like the seatbelt is.

Example: Drawing number	123456
Seatbelt part number	123456-01
Extender part number	123456-03

3. Requests for TSO approval will be made for both the seatbelt and the extender either together or individually. The drawing of the parent seatbelt will be included with the TSO submittal. TSO approval will be granted for each component, as is done currently.
4. The label on the extender will, along with all the other information required by the TSO include the part number of the parent seatbelt(s) with which the extender can be used and a statement that it can only be used with those seatbelt(s). If an applicant wants to obtain approval of an extender with various seatbelts that have a TSO (after market) then the extender would need to be tested and marked for each parent seatbelt. This may prove to be a problem, since some manufactures do not want their drawings modified by an outside source.
5. In addition in the general notes of the drawing, there should be a flag note tied to the parent seatbelt in the bill of materials to state that the extender is approved for use with the parent seatbelt as optional equipment.

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When a minor change is made to an existing extender requiring a new part number, the label should include the part number of the parent seatbelt with which the extender can be used, and a statement that it can only be used with that parent seatbelt.

No change to the label information of a currently approved extender part numbers is required.

While it is not anticipated that there will be a large number of TSO C22g extenders approved for use with TSO C22f seatbelts applied for, it is a possibility, as long as the extender has the compatible hardware (buckles and connectors), and is marked properly. This is not acceptable the other way however. A TSO C22f extender can not be approved for use with a TSO C22g seatbelt, as this would degrade the level of performance of the seatbelt.

An extender to be used with restrain systems with shoulder harnesses would change the geometry on the occupant and would need to be tested and be required to comply with the "single motion release" criteria.


James C. Jones