



U.S. Department
of Transportation

Federal Aviation
Administration

Office of the Administrator

800 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20591

October 8, 2019

The Honorable James R. Langevin
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Langevin:

Thank you for your August 19 letter, cosigned by your congressional colleagues, urging the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to implement regulations to require all certificate holders operating passenger aircraft to carry an opioid antagonist – naloxone – in emergency medical kits. We appreciate and share your concerns.

Per Section 307 of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018 (P.L. 115-254), and as mentioned in your letter, the FAA is evaluating potential modifications to the emergency medical equipment requirements – including the contents of first-aid kits – under part 121 of Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations. In conjunction with that evaluation, the FAA asked the Aerospace Medical Association (AsMA) to conduct a study of the required emergency medical kit contents for commercial aircraft operating under part 121. The FAA received the AsMA report in June 2019. In late August 2019, the FAA's Office of Aerospace Medicine completed its review of the study and concurred with AsMA's recommendation regarding the need to update emergency medical kits to include opioid antagonists.

The FAA is currently reviewing the best way for part 121 air carriers to include opioid antagonists as part of the emergency medical kits carried aboard their fleets. The agency is considering the revision of current regulatory requirements but recognizes that rulemaking takes time due to the notice and comment requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act. As with any other rulemaking, the FAA would have to consider the benefits and costs of the proposed changes. For example, the FAA would have to evaluate, amongst others, the impact of the regulatory changes on part 121 air carriers that would have to procure new emergency medical kits for their aircraft fleets, dispose or update the old kits, and provide crewmember training and familiarization with the new kits.

The FAA is also considering other means to convey valuable information and recommended actions for part 121 air carriers. Since air carriers may voluntarily carry additional medications in their aircraft emergency medical kits, the FAA will seek to encourage the expeditious and voluntary inclusion of opioid antagonists in the kits prior to the effective date of a final rule.

We have sent an identical letter to each of the cosigners of your letter.

If I can be of further assistance, please contact me or Philip Newman, Assistant Administrator for Government and Industry Affairs, at (202) 267-3277.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Dickson". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.

Steve Dickson
Administrator