

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR OFFICE OF AIRCRAFT SERVICES

TECH BULLETIN

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DOI SEAT Managers, SEAT Vendors

SUBJECT: Emergency Drop Systems

There have been several recent serious incidents involving retardant gates, the most serious of which were the inability to salvo the load using the emergency system.

While there seems to be no single or common cause for the various problems, there is an indication that maintenance and operating practices applicable to one gate may need to be modified somewhat for another gate, or the same type gate in a different installation. Each type and installation has its own idiosyncrasies and must be treated accordingly.

It is essential that each pilot have the assurance that the emergency dump system may be relied upon at any time on every flight. Each system must be checked each day for security, cleanliness, alignment, fit, function, and operability. This may include dropping water on the ramp, etc., but it is not required. Systems utilizing nitrogen cylinders should be thoroughly checked, short of expending the cylinders. Certain systems appear vulnerable to a buildup of retardant and may require frequent, careful cleaning.


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