

Operations Manual extract relating to likely sources of fire on-board an aeroplane

'LIKELY SOURCES AND HIGH RISK AREA'S (sic)

Sources of fire onboard an aeroplane include:

- a. faulty electrical wiring*
- b. oven or hot cups/boilers*
- c. passenger items that have been brought onto the aeroplane without being spotted i.e. matches, gas or petrol lighters*
- d. incorrectly packed or manifested cargo*

Fires involving items under a. could appear anywhere in the aeroplane but normally are very rare. Items under b. are in a very defined location, which should be under constant cabin crew surveillance. Items under c. would probably occur in the overhead lockers, although it is possible that an event could take place in the toilet if the passenger ignored all the announcements regarding the prohibition of smoking on the aeroplane. Items under d. will be stored in the cargo holds which are not normally accessible in flight. Indication systems on the flight deck will alert the flight deck crew to any incidents and they will advise the cabin crew on the required course of action.'

And:

'Smoke-filled Cabin

No visual sign of fire is a dangerous situation as it could indicate smouldering wires/cables in the concealed electrical systems installed in the aeroplane.

Smoke will filter into the cabin through the air conditioning system, or will seep through joins in the cabin side-wall trim panels if a fire is concealed between the outer and inner skins of the aeroplane.

Appendix A

i) Inform the Commander IMMEDIATELY, so that he may take whatever action is necessary, i.e. ventilate the cabin.

ii) Switch off electric's (sic) which may be located in the vicinity.

iii) Check for signs of fire, armed with a BCF fire extinguisher.

iv) Instruct passengers to breath through wetted handkerchiefs or other suitable material, using water from the galley or toilet sink.

v) If any passengers are having breathing problems they should be moved far away from the source of the smoke and oxygen should be administered.

'Searching' crew members should carry a smoke hood unit which can be utilised if smoke density increases or if situation dictates when fighting the fire.

NOTE: Oxygen bottles should be moved away from the source of the fire as oxygen is highly inflammable.'