

Aerospace Medical Association



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April 12, 1995

Docket Clerk
Docket No. 50031
U.S. Dept. of Transportation
400 7th Street, SW
Room 4107
Washington, D.C. 20590

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Aircraft disinsection is an economical, political, and medical issue. Regarding the latter, although it is known that the disinsection sprays used today can trigger rashes and asthmatic like attacks, these are believed to be extremely rare. For example, one major airline has reported only one such incident per year for the past 12 years. Furthermore, there has been nothing in the aerospace medicine literature to suggest that spraying is a significant medical problem.

Therefore, the question which must be addressed is whether or not it is worth the effort and expense to spray aircraft in order to eliminate the risk of vector borne insects. The Aerospace Medical Association (AsMA) agrees with U.S. policy that it probably is not as borne by the fact that there have been no outbreaks of vector-borne disease in the U.S. that can be attributed to imported vectors. Hence, AsMA recommends that efforts be made to convince those overseas carriers which do spray to stop the practice on the grounds that it is unnecessary.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this NPRM.

Sincerely,

Richard D. Heimbach, M.D., Ph.D.
President