

Safety Recommendation Number:	IRLD2018010
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Safety Recommendation Status:	Not accepted, closed

Safety Recommendation:

The Federal Aviation Administration should review the Federal Aviation Regulations relating to pre-flight inspection of flight crew oxygen equipment, to ensure that they address the use of stowed oxygen masks.

Response:

In a letter dated 2 April 2019, the FAA stated:

The FAA reviewed this recommendation, and assigned it to our Flight Standards Service, Air Carrier Operations Branch for further evaluation. As part of our evaluation, we will review this issue with the oxygen mask manufacturer. We anticipate providing an updated response to this recommendation by September 2019.

In a letter dated 15 October 2019, the FAA stated:

In response to this recommendation, the FAA's Flight Standards Service, Air Carrier Operations Branch, reviewed the specifics of this inflight incident and Title 14, Code of Federal Regulations Part 121, Section 121.337(b)(2)(3) and (c)(1)(i). The regulation requires the following:

(b)(2), the oxygen equipment must be inspected in accordance with the manufacturer's inspection guidelines and inspection periods to ensure condition for use for intended emergency purposes;

(b)(3), the oxygen equipment must not impair the wearer's vision so that a flight crew member's duties cannot be accomplished, including if corrective glasses are worn in conjunction with the equipment; and,

(c)(1)(i), prior to each flight the oxygen equipment be checked by the flight crewmembers, who would use the equipment, to ensure that it is serviceable, fits properly, is properly connected, and both the oxygen supply and pressure are adequate for use.

Based upon the review of the FAA's regulatory requirements, the existing regulation mentioned above is sufficient at addressing the AAIU's safety recommendation. The language of the regulation clearly addresses incorporating the manufacturer's recommendations, inspection intervals, prohibition of vision impairment such as to impair duties, and an additional requirement that the crewmembers inspect the equipment prior to each flight.

[The FAA believes this] has effectively addressed this safety recommendation and consider our actions complete.

AAIU Comment:

AAIU consider the status of this safety recommendation as "Not accepted, closed".