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From: Christophe.Dussart@ec.europa.eu
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Sent: Montag, 5. Februar 2007 18:36
To: kaypietsch@web.de
Cc: Peter.Faross@ec.europa.eu
Subject: FW: Accessible Restrooms in Airplanes

Mr P.,

I refer to your e-mail below, for which I thank you.

The question you ask is whether European airlines are obliged to provide wheelchair accessible toilets on board of their planes. Your reading of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 July 2006 concerning the rights of disabled persons and persons with reduced mobility when travelling by air is that there is no information concerning this question.

It is correct that Regulation 1107/2006 itself does not contain as provisions on wheelchair accessible toilets aboard planes.

However, in organising the provision of assistance to disabled persons and persons with reduced mobility, and the training of their personnel, airports and air carriers should have regard to document 30 of the European Civil Aviation Conference (ECAC), Part I, Section 5 and its associated annexes, in particular the Code of Good Conduct in Ground Handling for Persons with Reduced Mobility as set out in Annex J thereto at the time of adoption of this Regulation (Recital 10 of the regulation).

Point 5.6.4.1, indent b of Doc 30 provides that an aircraft with more than one aisle should be equipped with at least one spacious lavatory for PRMs catering for all kinds of disabilities.

Similarly, indent c) provides that any other aircraft equipped with a least two lavatories should have at least one catering of the special needs of PRMs (door wide enough to assist the PRM passenger, doors should open outwards or sliding doors should be used, fitting of handles, privacy curtains on both sides across the aisle, disappearing threshold if necessary).

However, DOC 30 is not of regulatory nature, and airlines do not have a legal obligation to respect it. Moreover, the services of the Commission are not aware of any EU or international rules which would oblige air carriers to provide wheelchair accessible toilets on board of their planes.

We remain available in case of any other question you may have.

Kind regards,

Christophe DUSSART
Policy officer
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