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Securing Doors on Agency aircraft.

PURPOSE

Ensuring that an aircraft is secure and properly configured for flight is the responsibility of the pilot but all on board share in the task of ensuring that the flight is conducted in a safe manner.

Recent incidents have occurred where the passenger door of an Agency aircraft – in particular Cessna 337 aircraft - have opened unexpectedly during flight.

Reviews of these incidents has found no fault with the operation of the door, thus concluding that activities within the aircraft have inadvertently moved the door handle into the open position allowing the door to open or the door was not properly secured prior to commencement of the flight.

PROCEDURE

Staff participating in flights for Agency operations are to obtain a full briefing from the pilot on the operation of all doors and safety equipment installed on the aircraft.

- All doors are to be closed and handles turned to the locked position; *and*
- where fitted, the lock button is to be engaged to prevent the door handle from being moved to the open position.

The pre-flight check by the pilot is to confirm that the door is properly closed and that the handle and lock have been properly engaged.

Once checked, activities in the aircraft by passengers prior to and during the flight should ensure no effect on the position or operation of the door handle.

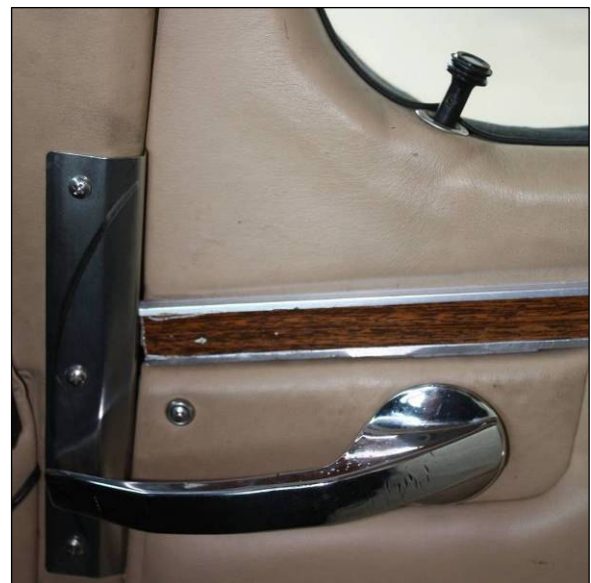
This procedure should apply to all aircraft engaged in Agency operations flights.

Discrepancies in aircraft doors and associated locking mechanisms can and do exist in aircraft of the same type.

The attached photographs show several Cessna 337 door fittings in the correct locked position. All have subtle differences in structure and location.

As per SAU Briefing Note 32 - all portable equipment is to be secured prior to take off.

For any helicopter door off operations the requirements of SAUP FO 2.01– Helicopter Doors Off/Removed Operations apply.



Birdog 370 - Cessna 337



Birdog 369 - Cessna 337



Birdog 366 - Cessna 337



Birdog 373 - C337

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