



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

Federal Aviation  
Administration

§ 23.562  
36r subsequent  
111 Downs  
**Memorandum**

Subject: **INFORMATION:** Side Facing Seat Approvals in  
Airplanes with Original Certification Basis Prior  
to FAR 23, Amendment 23-36

Date: JUN 03 1996

From: Manager, Standards Office, ACE-110

Reply to Downs, 426-5688  
Attn. of:

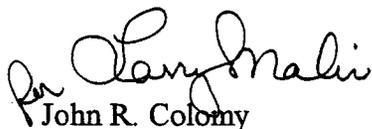
To: Manager, Atlanta Aircraft Certification Office, ACE-115A  
Manager, Chicago Aircraft Certification Office, ACE-115C  
Manager, Wichita Aircraft Certification Office, ACE-115W  
Manager, Anchorage Aircraft Certification Office,  
ACE-115N  
Manager, Brussels Aircraft Certification Office, AEU-100  
Manager, Denver Aircraft Certification Office, ANM-100D  
Manager, Los Angeles Aircraft Certification Office,  
ANM-100L  
Manager, Seattle Aircraft Certification Office, ANM-100S  
Manager, Ft. Worth Aircraft Certification Staff, ASW-150  
Manager, Boston Aircraft Certification Office, ANE-150  
Manager, New York Aircraft Certification Office,  
ANE-170

This memo is in response to numerous inquiries concerning the certification of side facing seat installations. It is intended to clarify the certification requirements regarding Supplemental Type Certificates (STC's), STC amendments, or Type Certificate amendment applications for such installations in small airplanes whose original certification basis was prior to Amendment 23-36 to Part 23 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (FAR's), and which were manufactured on or prior to December 12, 1986. This includes normal, utility, acrobatic and commuter category airplanes with earlier amendments to FAR 23, Civil Air Regulations 3, or any prior airworthiness regulations as their original certification basis.

As stated previously in a memorandum dated November 11, 1995, earlier regulations were written with forward or aft facing seats in mind, and do not provide adequate standards with respect to protection of occupants in side facing seats. Therefore the ACO should make a strong case to the applicant for the inclusion of later requirements. An alternative to compliance with current regulation is to prohibit occupation of side facing seats during takeoff and landing through the use of a flight manual supplement and clearly visible placards. This type of installation should include a restraining system which keeps the

occupant securely seated during turbulence or maneuvering. However, for those airplanes that have side facing seats as part of their certification basis, they will not have to meet the requirements of Section 23.562.

For further guidance regarding this issue, please contact Mike Downs of the Regulation and Policy Branch at (816) 426-5688.



John R. Colomy

Manager, Standards Office, ACE-110