



EXPLANATORY NOTE

Study on Carriage by Air of Special Categories of Passengers (SCPs)

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The safety rules for air operations provide guidance as regards the conditions under which special categories of passengers should be carried so as to mitigate the safety risks for themselves or for the other passengers. The most significant rules are those applicable to commercial air transport with aeroplanes, as specified in Annex III (EU-OPS) to Council Regulation (EEC) N°3922/91. EU-OPS specific requirements address the carriage of passengers who require special consideration or assistance, which can also be, or be combined with, the need for special conditions, devices, equipment or for an accompanying person, namely the 'special categories of passengers', which include:

- infants and children until the age of 12 (e.g. OPS 1.320);
- persons with disabilities or reduced mobility (e.g. OPS 1.260);
- sick passengers and persons on stretchers (e.g. Appendix 1 to OPS 1.1045);
- inadmissible passengers, deportees or persons in custody (e.g. OPS 1.265).

The recent and forthcoming changes in the air passengers' "profile" resulting from the change in airfares and in passengers' rights to an easier access to air travel, as well as the related concerns expressed by stakeholders, led the Agency to conclude that a study was needed in order to provide updated scientific data on carriage by air of Special Categories of Passengers. The study was therefore commissioned with the aim to conduct a methodological risk assessment of the safety risks, if any, that may be associated to the carriage of special categories of passengers. Any identified risk, as well as any combination of risks if relevant, were to be assessed. Finally, the report was to propose recommendations, including possible mitigating measures and/or rulemaking activities, which could be recommended in the areas of operations and/or certification.

The final report was delivered in December 2009 and was submitted to the Agency's consultative bodies for advice. As a result, the Agency's rulemaking programme recently adopted for the years 2011-2014 includes a rulemaking task MDM.072 on the carriage of SCPs. This task will take into account the updated data and proposed recommendations provided by the report, in addition to other available scientific studies, if any, and operational experience. Moreover, it should be noted that task MDM.072 may be divided in different sub-tasks if considered relevant after completion of the Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) that will be conducted as the very beginning of the rulemaking task process.