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Guide to Hygiene and Sanitation in Aviation. 3rd edition. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2009.

ANNEX F Routine aircraft cleaning schedule

The information provided in this annex is an example of a cleaning schedule for aircraft, written to assist those responsible for routine cleaning immediately after a flight or during a night stop. Although routine cleaning usually includes the use of disinfectants, as components of general-purpose aircraft cleaners, their routine application differs from that of an aircraft that needs disinfection after transporting a suspected case of communicable disease, for which separate guidance is provided in the text of [chapter 3](#).

Cleaning and disinfection schedule

The aircraft operator's engineering department shall grant technical approval for each type of cleaning product used. Approved cleaning products are usually listed in the aircraft maintenance manual. Alternative cleaning products must be approved by the operator's engineering department prior to use.

1. General

1.1. Aircraft contamination

Should aircraft contamination be noticed (insects, liquids, etc.), inform the airline station manager. If an infective source is suspected, the source of infection (e.g. passenger) should be contained in order to minimize the risk of infection to others.

1.2. Handling of flight irregularities

The specifics of each flight irregularity situation will determine the course of action to be taken. However:

- Never compromise on safety.
- Coordinate actions taken with the airline station manager.

2. Interior cleaning

2.1. Classification of interior cleaning types

There are different types of interior cleaning, depending on time available; the following schedule is only an example, which may have to be adjusted to more specific operations. For operations having short flights, minimum service and short turnaround time, the requirement for cleaning between sectors is limited to very few of the procedures mentioned in the chart below.

2.2. Cabin cleaning

Cabin cleaning shall start immediately after passenger disembarkation is completed.

If transit passengers remain on board, cabin cleaning shall be performed so as to minimize passenger disturbance.

Cleaning of cabin windows inside shall be done only with an approved cleaning product and a non-abrasive cloth. Once the window is cleaned, rinse with water using a cloth and dry the surface.

Cloth-covered seats shall be vacuumed. Sticky objects shall be removed with a spatula prior to vacuuming. Stains shall be removed only with an approved stain removal product.

Leather-covered seats shall be cleaned using only an approved dusting product. Stains shall be removed only with an approved stain removal product.

Passenger seat control unit panels shall be cleaned using only approved cleaning materials and non-abrasive paper towels.

In-seat monitors shall be cleaned using only approved cleaning materials and a microfibre cloth.

Carpet stains shall be removed only with an approved stain removal product.

2.3. Interior cleaning chart

The following chart shows applicable cleaning and disinfection activities required for each type of interior cleaning.

“On request” cleaning activities shall be performed if requested by the operator flight crew, cabin crew or airline station manager.

Ashtrays require emptying and cleaning only if not permanently blocked.

Symbols: ✓ Standard ◆ On request

A: Stopover times under 60 minutes

B: Stopover times over 60 minutes

C: Overnight

Area	Services	A	B	C	Remarks
Flight deck	Empty waste boxes and ashtrays	✓	✓	✓	
	Clean crew tables and glass holders	◆	✓	✓	
	Clean stowage areas and racks	◆	✓	✓	B: As required
	Wipe seats	◆	✓	✓	Remove stains
	Clean floor / Vacuum carpet	◆	◆	✓	
	Clean flight deck windows inside	◆	◆	✓	
	Clean door and walls	◆	◆	✓	
Cabin	Dispose of waste from closets	✓	✓	✓	
	Dispose of litter and newspapers	✓	✓	✓	
	Dispose of waste in seat pockets		✓	✓	
	Collect and restow pillows and blankets (first, business class)	✓	✓	✓	Remove if soiled
	Fold and restow blankets in overhead bins	✓	✓		Remove if soiled
	Restow pillows in overhead bins	✓	✓		Remove if soiled
	Empty ashtrays		✓	✓	
	Clean tray tables and armrests	◆	◆	✓	
	Clean cabin crew seat tables	◆	◆	✓	
	Clean interphone surfaces	◆	✓	✓	
	Clean cabin windows inside			✓	
	Vacuum passenger and cabin crew cloth-covered seats		◆	✓	Remove stains
	Wipe passenger and cabin crew leather-covered seats		◆	✓	Remove stains
	Dispose of waste in overhead bins and wipe		◆	✓	

Area	Services	A	B	C	Remarks
	Clean overhead bins outside and latch handle surfaces	◆	◆	✓	
	Clean PVC floors			✓	A: As required
	Vacuum carpet		◆	✓	A: As required
	Empty and clean ashtrays			✓	
	Vacuum ashtray holders			✓	
	Collect and replace blankets			✓	
	Collect and replace pillows			✓	
	Collect and replace headrest covers			✓	
	Clean in-seat monitors			✓	
	Clean passenger seat/service control unit panels	◆	◆	✓	
	Remove passenger seat cushions and vacuum			✓	
	Remove stains from carpets			✓	
	Clean seat rails, cabin fixtures, air inlets, ceiling, sidewalls, closets, doors, service panels and magazine racks			✓	
Galley	Empty waste bins and insert waste bags	✓	✓	✓	
	Clean doors, latches, ceiling, ventilation grids	◆	◆	✓	
	Clean sinks, faucets and working surfaces	◆	✓	✓	
	Clean retractable tables	◆	✓	✓	
	Clean ovens inside and outside	◆	◆	✓	
	Clean service trolleys	◆	✓	✓	
	Clean PVC floors	◆	◆	✓	
Lavatories	Empty waste bins and insert waste bags	✓	✓	✓	
	Clean toilet bowl and seat	✓	✓	✓	
	Clean basin, faucets and surfaces	✓	✓	✓	
	Clean mirror	✓	✓	✓	
	Clean change table	✓	✓	✓	
	Clean wall surfaces and interior and exterior door handles and locks	✓	✓	✓	
	Clean PVC floors	✓	✓	✓	
	Replenish soap dispenser	◆	✓	✓	
	Replenish toiletry items	◆	✓	✓	
Crew rest areas	Dispose of waste from closets		✓	✓	
	Dispose of litter and newspapers		✓	✓	
	Remove sheets, pillows and blankets from each sleeping berth		✓	✓	This step followed by next two in sequence
	Clean surfaces within each sleeping berth		✓	✓	
	Place clean sheets on mattresses and clean pillows and blankets in each sleeping berth		✓	✓	

Area	Services	A	B	C	Remarks
	Clean controls (for lights and ventilation, etc.) and interphone surfaces		✓	✓	
	Empty ashtrays		✓		
	Vacuum carpet				A: As required
	Clean any cabin crew seat tables		✓	✓	
	Clean any cabin windows inside		✓	✓	

If time does not permit completion of all of the above tasks, priority should be given to the removal of waste and cleaning where indicated, especially of galleys and toilets. To expedite cleaning procedures and to reduce the amount of equipment required, disposable swabs impregnated with effective and appropriate cleaning agents can be purchased or prepared in advance, stored in polyethylene bags and used for all wiping operations.

Galleys are extremely difficult to clean satisfactorily at times other than during maintenance checks, since they have many almost inaccessible areas in which foods and beverages—particularly the latter—can penetrate. The introduction of modules in wide-bodied aircraft is an improvement, but much more could be done to design a galley that would be easier to clean than the present type.

Problem areas

Aircraft cleaners need to pay particular attention to the following dirt traps and make sure that they are thoroughly cleaned out:

- catering equipment runners
- bar box recesses
- floor of catering container compartments
- sink drain pipes (frequently blocked)
- drinking-fountain wastes and bottle top remover recesses
- lavatory cupboards
- first-aid stowage holds.

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