



AEROSPACE RECOMMENDED PRACTICE

ARP5403™**REV. A**

Issued 2001-08
Revised 2010-03
Reaffirmed 2021-04

Superseding ARP5403

(R) Aircraft Crash Axes

RATIONALE

ARP5403A has been reaffirmed to comply with the SAE five-year review policy.

1. SCOPE

This SAE Aerospace Recommended Practice (ARP) recommends general criteria for availability, location, accessibility, stowage, use, and crew member training needed for aircraft crash axes.

2. REFERENCES

2.1 Applicable Documents

The following publications form a part of this document to the extent specified herein. The latest issue of SAE publications shall apply. The applicable issue of other publications shall be the issue in effect on the date of the purchase order. In the event of conflict between the text of this document and references cited herein, the text of this document takes precedence. Nothing in this document, however, supersedes applicable laws and regulations unless a specific exemption has been obtained.

2.1.1 SAE Publications

Available from SAE International, 400 Commonwealth Drive, Warrendale, PA 15096-0001, Tel: 877-606-7323 (inside USA and Canada) or 724-776-4970 (outside USA), www.sae.org.

ARP4101/6 Stowage of Flight Crews Survival Emergency and Miscellaneous Equipment

AIR5401 Aircraft Crash Axes

AS5402 Design and Performance Criteria, Aircraft Crash Axes

2.1.2 Code of Federal Regulations

Available from the United States Government Printing Office, 732 North Capitol Street, NW, Washington, DC 20401, Tel: 202-512-0000, www.gpoaccess.gov.

14 CFR Part 25 Airworthiness Standards; Transport Category Airplanes (§25.789(a), 25.1411(a), 25.1561(c))

14 CFR Part 91 General Operating and Flight Rules (§91.513(e))

14 CFR Part 121 Operating Requirements: Domestic, Flag, and Supplemental Operations (§121.309(e))

14 CFR Part 125 Certification and Operations: Airplanes having a seating capacity of 20 or more passengers or a maximum payload capacity of 6000 pounds or more (§125.207(a))

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SAE WEB ADDRESS:

Full document details: [SAE ARP5403A](http://www.sae.org/standards/content/ARP5403A)

For more information on this standard, visit
<https://www.sae.org/standards/content/ARP5403A>

Documents

Document Sharing Hub

14 CFR Part 135 Operating Requirements: Commuter and On-Demand Operations (§135.177(a))

2.1.3 EASA Publications

Available from the European Aviation Safety Agency, Postfach 10 12 53, D-50452 Koeln, Germany, Tel: +49 221 8999 000, www.easa.eu.int.

CS-25 Certification Specifications for Large Aeroplanes (25.789(a), 25.1411(a), 25.1561(c))

EU-OPS 1.795 Crash Axes and Crowbars

2.2 Definitions

2.2.1 CRASH AX: A hand tool to aid aircraft crew members in emergencies. The hand tool is to assist crew members in penetrating aircraft materials and for prying, twisting and cutting jammed items that are impeding the crew's ability to respond to an emergency.

2.3 Mandating and Recommending Words

2.3.1 SHALL: Indicates a mandatory criterion.

2.3.2 SHOULD: Indicates a criterion for which an alternative, including noncompliance, may be applied if it is documented and justified.

3. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

3.1 Availability

3.1.1 Crash axes referenced in AIR5401 and as required by the governing civil aviation authority regulations (e.g., FAA CFRs, EASA EU-OPS, etc.) shall be provided for emergency use by aircraft crew members.

3.2 Quantity

3.2.1 In an airplane with a maximum passenger seating capacity exceeding 200, an additional crash ax should be located in the passenger cabin. For each additional 200 passenger seats over 200, an additional crash ax should be located in the passenger cabin (i.e., for 200 to 399 passengers, two axes recommended; for 400 to 599 passengers, three axes recommended, etc.).

3.2.2 Other Considerations for Quantity

The number of crash axes provided should be considered relative to the number of aircraft decks or levels. There should be a minimum of one crash ax located on each deck or level, in meeting the recommended quantities of 3.2.1.

3.3 Location

3.3.1 A crash ax shall be located on the flight deck for emergency use by the flight crew (see ARP4101/6).

3.3.2 When one crash ax is located in the passenger cabin, its location should be near the cabin attendant activity station farthest away from the flight deck. Additional crash axes should be uniformly spaced; each located near cabin attendant activity stations. (Cabin attendant activity stations are those areas where cabin attendants/crew members perform their normal activities. These areas would include galleys.) Crash axes shall not be located in stowage compartments that are normally accessed by passengers (e.g., overhead stowage bins, closets) or in individual jumpseat locations surrounded by passenger seating.

3.3.3 For security purposes, the stowage location of a crash ax in the passenger cabin should not be placarded.

3.3.4 If a supplemental pry bar (as specified in 3.7) is supplied in addition to the crash ax, then both the tools shall be stowed together.