

Aviation Safety Bulletin

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Subject:

Electrical smoke in the cabin of an MD-83 aircraft during cruise flight.

Background:

During cruise, the cabin crew of an MD-83 smelled electrical smoke odor at the sidewall light area in the middle section of the cabin. The light was found inoperative also.

The maintenance crew found electrical burning between a sidewall fluorescent lamp and lamp holder in the cabin left side row of 22 and 23. The fluorescent lamp bi-pins and the contacts of the lamp holder were also found burnt.

The maintenance crew found dried brown liquid on the fluorescent lamp, lamp holder and adjacent area. Many dried brown drips were found on the bottom side of the lamp as well.

The brown liquid was deemed at the early stage as one of the possible casual factors.

Recommendation :

Operators shall address the importance of not allowing passengers to carry dangerous goods in-flight and ensure its enforcement.

Flight attendants are obliged to prevent people from placing beverages and liquid on the baggage rack.

Inspect and ensure the fluorescent lamp bi-pins are fully engaged into the lamp holder contacts. Replace the burnt fluorescent lamp and lamp holder if the burnt bi-pins or lamp holder contacts were found burnt, in order to eliminate electrical arc and incident occurrence.

Maintenance and cabin cleaning activities shall be implemented IAW operator's procedures, standards and safety regulations.