



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Aviation
Administration**

800 Independence Ave., SW.
Washington, DC 20591

JUN 22 2006

Ms. Patricia A. Friend
International President
Association of Flight Attendants
501 Third Street, NW.
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Ms. Friend:

Administrator Blakey has asked me to respond to your May 16 letter requesting radiation protection for crewmembers.

As you said in your letter, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) published guidance material in the form of advisory circulars (AC) in the 1990s to inform the aviation community about in-flight radiation exposure. Specifically, as early as 1994, the FAA published AC 120-61, Crewmember Training on In-Flight Radiation Exposure. The information contained in the AC is still valid, and the AC remains in effect today.

This AC recommends that air carrier training programs inform crewmembers about radiation exposure and known, associated health risks. It also assists crewmembers in making informed decisions about their work. The FAA has made radiation exposure information widely available through published documents, including the two ACs you mentioned, in hardcopy and in electronic form posted on one of the pages at the FAA's public Web site.

The FAA has carefully considered your request for FAA action to require various countermeasures against crewmember radiation. Considering other rulemaking initiatives in progress and in planning, the FAA itself is not currently disposed to initiate the rulemaking that you recommend.

We appreciate your association's commitment to aviation safety, and if we can be of further assistance, please let us know.

Sincerely,

for Nicholas A. Sabatini
Associate Administrator for Aviation Safety