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AERONAUTICAL INFORMATION CIRCULAR

AIC B29/94 is hereby replaced.

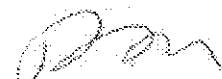
Unexpected opening of cabin doors

During the investigation of accidents, records indicate that other accidents have been attributed to cabin door opening. Loss of control due to air flow disturbance caused by inadvertent opening of the cabin door is contributory.

Due to the surprise effect of a cabin door unexpectedly opening in flight, and the accompanying loud noise, it is fairly normal for a pilot to imagine that a failure of a major aircraft component has occurred. This is further strengthened by the fact that, in some aircraft, such an occurrence may create control problems or impose structural limitations for which the aircraft was not designed for.

Due to the potential hazard of an unexpected cabin door opening it is stressed that all pilots must ensure that doors are properly latched and that hinges, handles, locks and related components are in place and properly functioning.

Flying instructors should emphasize the importance of checking cabin doors as part of their preflight check. In flight demonstrations of the effect of door opening should be avoided because of the possibility of adverse control effects or structural stresses. Flying instructors should bear this in mind, and exercise caution, when teaching the opening of cabin doors as standard practice during a forced landing. The characteristics of individual aircraft type must be understood and considered. It is further recommended that all flying schools and clubs include this very safety matter in their training curriculums.



K. Kaseke
Acting General Manager