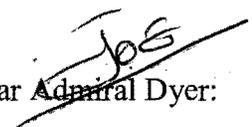


National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Office of the Administrator
Washington, DC 20546-0001



January 20, 2011

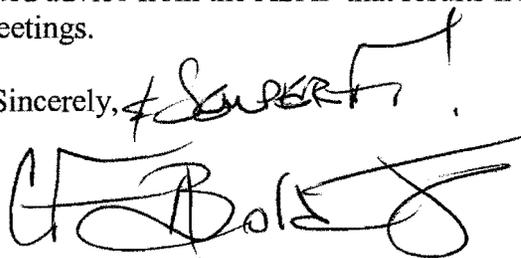
Vice Admiral Joseph W. Dyer, USN (Ret.)
Chairman
Aerospace Safety Advisory Panel
National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Washington, DC 20546


Dear Admiral Dyer:

Enclosed is NASA's response to Recommendation 2010-04-02(b) from the 2010 Fourth Quarterly Meeting of the Aerospace Safety Advisory Panel (ASAP). Please do not hesitate to contact me if the ASAP would like further background on the information provided in the enclosure.

I look forward to receiving continued advice from the ASAP that results from your important fact-finding and quarterly meetings.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Bolden, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Charles F. Bolden, Jr.
Administrator

Enclosure

Tracking Number 2010-04-02(b)
Safety Language

Finding

Many potential commercial providers appear to want to use different language on the definitions of safety. It should be noted that safety language has been carefully developed. For example, “hazard” has specific components of severity and probability in terms of risk.

Recommendation

NASA should specify the safety words to be used and their definitions, or at least show the correlation between industry and NASA terminology.

Rationale

It appears that some of the potential commercial providers want to mix the safety words around, and there is potential for miscommunication.

NASA Response

NASA concurs, and we are pleased to inform the ASAP that on December 8, 2010, the NASA Office of Safety and Mission Assurance issued NASA-STD 8709.22, Safety and Mission Assurance Acronyms, Abbreviations, and Definitions, which provides a standard definition of Safety and Mission Assurance terminology. The document may be found at <http://www.hq.nasa.gov/office/codeq/doctree/NS870922.pdf>.

Enclosure