

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



April 22, 2011

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

Dear ~~Admiral~~ ^{JOE} Dyer:

Enclosed is NASA's response to a recommendation from the Aerospace Safety Advisory Panel (ASAP) meeting held on February 3-4, 2011, at NASA Headquarters. 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.", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Charles F. Bolden, Jr.
Administrator

Enclosure:
2011-01-04 Document Title for "Commercial Crew Transportation System Certification Requirements for NASA Low Earth Orbit Missions"

ASAP Tracking Number: 2011-01-04

Document Title for “Commercial Crew Transportation System Certification Requirements for NASA Low Earth Orbit Missions”

ASAP Finding

The ASAP discussed the commercial crew transportation system certification with Mr. Doug Cooke, Associate Administrator for Exploration Systems Mission Directorate (ESMD). Partly as a result of the title addressing “Commercial Crew Transportation System,” there was some confusion as to whether the requirement would be for all commercial human space travel, or just the NASA crew missions. Mr. Cooke clarified that the requirements in the document are strictly intended for NASA.

ASAP Recommendation

NASA should change the document title from “Commercial Crew Transportation System Certification Requirements for NASA Low Earth Orbit Missions” to one that clearly indicates that the document applies to NASA crew transport to LEO only. One of the Panel suggestions is: “Certification Requirements for NASA Crew Commercial Transportation Systems to Low Earth Orbit.”

Rationale

A title that clearly indicates that the document requirements strictly apply to NASA crew missions to LEO would avoid confusion and future misunderstandings with regard to NASA’s role in commercial launch ventures.

NASA Response

NASA concurs. The subject title will be updated to “Certification Requirements for NASA Crew Commercial Transportation Systems to Low Earth Orbit” during the next document revision in June 2011.