



OPS-010

Seating, Seatbelts, and Safety Harnesses



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1 Background

Aircraft conducting fire and emergency operations encounter adverse weather conditions with high temperatures, turbulence and high-density altitudes. High quality seating, seatbelts, and safety harnesses may enhance safety by reducing the likelihood and consequences of injury should an incident occur.

Requirements of any contract take precedence over requirements of this standard. Any exceptions to this standard will be made at the absolute discretion of NAFC or a Member.

2 Criteria

Contractors providing aircraft services must ensure that seats, seatbelts, and safety harnesses meet the requirements of Australian civil aviation legislation. Seatbelts and safety harnesses must be functional and worn in accordance with legislation at all times.

Seats occupied by flight crew (pilots and flight engineers) and seats that face a console or dashboard must be equipped with safety harnesses providing upper body restraint (minimum standard). Four-point harnesses are required where such equipment is available for the make and model of aircraft. Inertia-reel harnesses are preferred where available.

For fixed wing firebombing and all rotary wing operations, front row seats and seats occupied by flight crew must be equipped with 4- or 5-point safety harnesses.

All seats in rotary-wing aircraft that may carry passengers must be equipped with safety harnesses that provide upper body restraint.

All seats in single-engine fixed wing aircraft that may be used to carry passengers must be equipped with safety harnesses that provide upper body restraint.

Passenger seats in multi-engine aeroplanes may be equipped with lap belt style seat belts.

3 Summary table

	Seat Belt (Lap Belt)	Safety harness with upper body restraint	4- or 5-point safety harness
Rotary Wing			
Flight crew and front row seats			Required
Console facing seats		Required	
Air crew seats		Required	
Passenger seats		Required	
Fixed wing			
Flight crew and front row seats		Required	Preferred (Required for firebombing)
Passenger seats	Multi-engine - required	Single engine - required	