

Press Release - FAA Approves Boeing 787 Battery System Design Changes

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For Immediate Release

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WASHINGTON, D.C. - The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) today took the next step in returning the Boeing 787 to flight by approving Boeing's design for modifications to the 787 battery system. The changes are designed to address risks at the battery cell level, the battery level and the aircraft level.

Next week, the FAA will issue instructions to operators for making changes to the aircraft and will publish in the Federal Register the final directive that will allow the 787 to return to service with the battery system modifications. The directive will take effect upon publication. The FAA will require airlines that operate the 787 to install containment and venting systems for the main and auxiliary system batteries, and to replace the batteries and their chargers with modified components.

“Safety of the traveling public is our number one priority. These changes to the 787 battery will ensure the safety of the aircraft and its passengers,” said Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood.

“A team of FAA certification specialists observed rigorous tests we required Boeing to perform and devoted weeks to reviewing detailed analysis of the design changes to reach this decision,” said FAA Administrator Michael Huerta.

To assure proper installation of the new design, the FAA will closely monitor modifications of the aircraft in the U.S. fleet. The FAA will stage teams of inspectors at the modification locations. Any return to service of the modified 787 will only take place after the FAA accepts the work.

As the certifying authority, the FAA will continue to support other authorities around the world as they finalize their own acceptance procedures.

(報道より)

○日経新聞 **B787の運航再開、米当局が認可発表** 2013/4/20 4:13

【ニューヨーク＝杉本貴司】米連邦航空局（F A A）は19日、相次ぐ発煙事故で運航を停止していた米ボーイングの新型機「787」の運航再開を認可すると正式に発表した。これを受け、航空大手各社は787の使用計画を策定する。米ユナイテッド航空は5月末に米国内線での営業運航再開を予定。1月の運航停止から約4カ月で787の運航が再開する。

787は1月初めに日米で発煙事故が相次いで発生。事態を重くみたF A Aが「緊急耐久性命令」に基づく運航停止指示を34年ぶりに発動した。19日はこの停止命令を実質的に解除する方針を表明した。日本の国土交通省など各国の航空監督当局も追従する見通しだ。

ボーイングによる787の事故原因の究明作業は難航している。同社は2月に電池構造や排煙システムの強化を柱とする独自の改善案をF A Aに提案した。

F A Aは19日、この改善案を正式に認可した。F A Aは来週、航空会社にこれらの改善案を機体に施すよう指示書を発行したうえで「787の営業運航を再開することを許可する最終的な指示を出す」としている。