NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

Office of Aviation Safety
Washington, D.C. 20594

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Attachment 21 - Boeing Non-Normal Checklist Instructions

OPERATIONAL FACTORS/HUMAN PERFORMANCE

DCA17FA021

Non–Normal Checklist Operation

Non–normal checklists start with steps to correct the situation. If needed, information for planning the rest of the flight is included. When special items are needed to configure the airplane for landing, the items are included in the Deferred Items section of the checklist. Flight patterns for some engine out situations are located in the Maneuvers chapter and show the sequence of configuration changes.

While every attempt is made to supply needed non–normal checklists, it is not possible to develop checklists for all conceivable situations. In some smoke, fire or fumes situations, the flight crew may need to move between the Smoke, Fire or Fumes checklist and the Smoke or Fumes Removal checklist. In some multiple failure situations, the flight crew may need to combine the elements of more than one checklist. In all situations, the captain must assess the situation and use good judgment to determine the safest course of action.

It should be noted that, in determining the safest course of action, troubleshooting, i.e., taking steps beyond published non-normal checklist steps, may cause further loss of system function or system failure. Troubleshooting should only be considered when completion of the published non-normal checklist results in an unacceptable situation.

There are some situations where the flight crew must land at the nearest suitable airport. These situations include, but are not limited to, conditions where:

- the non–normal checklist includes the item "Plan to land at the nearest suitable airport."
- fire or smoke continues
- only one AC power source remains (engine or APU generator)
- any other situation determined by the flight crew to have a significant adverse effect on safety if the flight is continued.

It must be stressed that for smoke that continues or a fire that cannot be positively confirmed to be completely extinguished, the earliest possible descent, landing, and evacuation must be done.

If a smoke, fire or fumes situation becomes uncontrollable, the flight crew should consider an immediate landing. Immediate landing implies immediate diversion to a runway. However, in a severe situation, the flight crew should consider an overweight landing, a tailwind landing, an off-airport landing, or a ditching.

Checklists directing an engine shutdown must be evaluated by the captain to determine whether an actual shutdown or operation at reduced thrust is the safest course of action. Consideration must be given to the probable effects of running the engine at reduced thrust.

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There are no non–normal checklists for the loss of an engine indication or automatic display of the secondary engine indications. Continue normal engine operation unless an EICAS alert message shows or a limit is exceeded.

Non–normal checklists also assume:

- During engine start and before takeoff, the associated non–normal checklist is done if a light, alert, or EICAS alert message is shown or a non-normal situation is identified. After completion of the checklist, the Dispatch Deviations Guide or operator equivalent is consulted to determine if Minimum Equipment List dispatch relief is available.
- System controls are in the normal configuration for the phase of flight before the start of the non–normal checklist.
- If the master WARNING or master CAUTION, and miscellaneous lights illuminate, all related amber and red lights are reviewed to assist in recognizing the cause(s) of the alert.
- Aural alerts are silenced and the system is reset by the flight crew as soon as the cause of the alert is recognized.
- The EICAS message list is cancelled after all checklists are complete or on hold so that future messages are more noticeable.
- The EMERGENCY position of the oxygen regulator is used when needed to supply positive pressure in the masks and goggles to remove contaminants. The 100% position of the oxygen regulator is used when positive pressure is not needed but contamination of the flight deck air exists. The Normal position of the oxygen regulator is used if prolonged use is needed and the situation allows. Normal boom microphone operation is restored when oxygen is no longer in use.
- Indicator lights are tested to verify suspected faults.
- Flight crew reset of a tripped fuel pump circuit breaker or fuel pump control circuit breaker is prohibited. In flight, flight crew reset of any other tripped circuit breaker is not recommended. However, these other tripped circuit breakers may be reset once, after a short cooling period (approximately 2 minutes), if in the judgment of the captain, the situation resulting from the circuit breaker trip has a significant adverse effect on safety. On the ground, flight crew reset of any other tripped circuit breaker should only be done after maintenance has determined that it is safe to reset the circuit breaker.
- Flight crew cycling (pulling and resetting) of a circuit breaker to clear a non-normal situation is not recommended, unless directed by a non-normal checklist.
- When a non-normal checklist directs the flight crew to attempt only one reset of a switch per flight, a second reset of the switch should not be done until maintenance has cleared the malfunction.

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