
Subject: New Audio Control Panels (ACPs) with Hot Mic Capability (Updated)

Note: This bulletin supersedes FB 15-10 and adds a Caution when using the hot mic with the O2 masks.

Introduction

Beginning with aircraft 3848, Boeing introduced a production change that replaced the existing ACPs with a new ruggedized ACP. These panels have silicone seals, stronger toggle switches, and hot mic capability. All three ACPs are being upgraded.



Features

As a result of feedback, Boeing has incorporated several features that address Delta's reliability and environmental concerns.

The new, larger toggle switches reduce the chances of breaking when items are unintentionally dropped or placed on these panels. In addition, the silicone seals prevent fluid/beverage spills from entering the ACP, which can cause electrical shorts and make switches sticky. Finally, the hot mic capability helps to mitigate flight deck noise issues.

ACP Switch Functionality

The functionality of most switches (i.e., transmit selectors, receivers, filter, and ALT-NORM) is identical to current ACPs already in service.

Push-To-Talk Switch

On new ACPs, selection of the INT position will latch the switch.

To initiate a hot mic conversation, both pilots and the observer (if desired) should place their respective Push-To-Talk switches to the INT position. All switches should be returned to the center (neutral) position to terminate this condition.

Push-To-Talk switches held in the RADIO position will return to the spring-loaded center (neutral) position.

CAUTION: Fight crews should not initiate hot mic conversations until the pushback coordinator has disconnected from the aircraft.

CAUTION: The new ACP hot mic feature has the potential for disrupted communications if the O2 mask is utilized while hot mic is selected. All crews should strongly consider deselecting hot mic, should the need to don O2 masks arise during flight.

Retrofit

A retrofit of 737-700, -800, and -900ER aircraft already in service is under review by Tech Ops.

Conclusion

Volume 1 and Volume 2 will be updated during a future revision.

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