



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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The U.S. Department of Transportation Broadcast News Service for Thursday, August 30 has an actuality on government response to air piracy and an advisory on an upcoming meeting about automobile standards.

First, Benjamin O. Davis, Jr., Assistant Secretary for Environment, Safety and Consumer Affairs, commented on the exercise of Federal authority in response to skyjacking during a speech today in Montreal:

"The Civil Aviation Security System is squarely based on the concept of interception; we keep any potential hijacker off the plane in the first place. Under our procedures, all enplaning passengers must be electronically screened as a condition to boarding or reboarding. The air carriers are also required to inspect all carry-on items, including hand luggage, purses and packages, to insure that weapons, explosives or other dangerous articles are not carried aboard the aircraft. That is the blanket order. It applies to all of the half million people who fly in this country every day; it is in effect at 2,800 boarding gates from Anchorage to Atlanta. As of now, we see no relaxation of the rules. There may be advances in technology which will speed the inspection of hand-carried items. But the concept of interception and the implementation of it will remain in effect for the foreseeable future."

This advisory for broadcasters; on Thursday, September 13 there will be a public meeting to discuss features of a new proposed Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard for bumpers on 1975 and 1976 model passenger cars. The meeting will be held at 9:30 a.m. in the Department of Transportation's headquarters building, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, D.C., Rm 2232. For further information dial 202-426-9550.

This has been the Transportation News Report.

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