

AGING TRANSPORT SYSTEMS RULEMAKING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
KENT V. HOLLINGER
10309 DUNN MEADOW ROAD
VIENNA, VA 22182-1325
(703) 757-3831**

December 12, 2002

Mr. Ronald J. Caron
Chairman, SAE Committee AE-8
27 Scudder Road
Newtown, CT 06470-1769

Dear Mr. Caron:

The Aging Transport Systems Rulemaking Advisory Committee (ATSRAC) was chartered by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to study issues related to aging systems on transport aircraft and advise the FAA on potential rulemaking associated to aircraft systems. Among its efforts, the ATSRAC periodically reviews the R&D efforts of the FAA Aging Electrical Systems Research Program. One project within the FAA R&D program is of particular interest, the Arc Fault Circuit Breaker (AFCB). AFCB's provide the means for mitigating the potentially serious effects of electrical arcing.

Through a joint Navy and FAA program, AFCB development has proceeded rapidly and 115V/single-phase aircraft AFCB's have been flight-tested and are now available for use in commercial and military aircraft. The FAA has also kept ATSRAC informed on the status of the parallel project to develop an SAE Aerospace Specification for AFCB's, designated AS-5692 (Arc Fault Circuit Breaker (AFCB), AC Constant Frequency, 400 HZ, Trip-Free, Aircraft, General Specification). The AE-8B1 committee has done a remarkable job with the difficult task of developing the specification. When available, the specification will greatly simplify the selection, certification, and installation, of this outstanding technology onto current and future aircraft.

Through this letter, the ATSRAC expresses our strong support of the continuing SAE efforts to develop the AFCB specification. The ATSRAC entreats the SAE to take all possible steps necessary to expedite the completion, approval and publishing of AS-5692. This technology is a crucial part of a diverse number of steps to improve electrical systems safety on airplanes.

Sincerely,

Kent V. Hollinger
ATSRAC Chairman

Cc: David Allen
James Ballough
Brenda Courtney

John Hickey
Charles Huber
Robert Pappas

Thomas Potter, Chair AE-8B1
Nicholas Sabatini