



AIRCRAFT CABIN CLEANING

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As part of Aviance Management response to the COVID-19 pandemic, an Account Manager was appointed to manage the aircraft cabin cleaning function. The aim was to give much more attention to aircraft cabin cleaning in accordance with Ghana Health authorities to ensure compliance with customer airlines, IATA and WHO requirements.

In addition, a new office was set up for the aircraft cabin cleaning (Appearance) staff to give it a facelift.

A look from the inside, most of us have the experience of travelling on aircrafts and are impressed by the cleanliness and orderliness of the cabin that welcome us together with the friendly and smiling faces of the cabin crew every time we board an aircraft.

The cleanliness and orderliness of the cabin are the results of the hard work of heroes behind the scene - the aircraft cabin cleaners. The work of these cleaners seldom attracts our attention, and in fact, very few of us have directly met with them before.

Aircraft cabin cleaning is a unique type of cleaning work characterized by a high concentration of physical activities in time and space that are not fully under the direct control of the service providers and their workers. The confined workspace (due to maximization of carrying capacities and comfort of passengers) and the tight work schedule (especially with short stay flights) are potential underlying risk factors for the development of musculoskeletal disorders among the cleaners.

Airlines usually contract out cabin cleaning to Ground Handlers. There are basically three levels of cabin cleaning services for the aircraft namely

1. Quick transit cleaning
2. Overnight (lay-over) cleaning and
3. Deep cleaning.

The type of services rendered depend on the duration of stay of the aircraft at the airport. The task in a typical quick transit cleaning involves

- seat cleaning
- seat pocket cleaning
- ashtray cleaning
- galley cleaning
- toilet cleaning and replenishment
- floor cleaning and
- blanket management

Lay-over cleaning is more thorough and in addition to the above processes includes

- floor vacuuming
- window cleaning
- stowage cleaning and
- cleaning of the cabin crew resting area

Deep cleaning includes all the above tasks but in a more extensive manner.

A team leader (Supervisor) is responsible for the delegation of duties. The number of cleaners assigned to each aircraft depends on the type of aircraft and the type of service required, i.e. quick transit, lay-over or deep cleaning.