

Cargo area panel splicing tape

New bromide-free panel splicing tapes save cost, improve performance and promise long term regulatory compliance.

The problem

Fire safety is of critical importance in aircraft operations. To prevent fire escaping from cargo hold areas, gaps between panels are sealed with a fire retardant adhesive tape. Traditionally, such fire retardant tapes have used toxic materials such as bromides in their composition.

Recent changes in European environmental legislation have outlawed the use of bromides in all applications. The change forced BA Engineering to source an expensive and unreliable tape solution for the maintenance of its cargo areas, where panels frequently have to be removed for inspection or repair purposes.

The solution

3M has developed a new high performance tape, which does not contain penta, octa or deca bromated diphenyl ether to comply with the latest EU directives on the use of bromide.

3M Glass Cloth Tape 398FR is designed for aerospace MRO tasks, wherever flyaway materials are needed. Key applications for the new material include cargo area Tedlar panel sealing, seat repair, insulation splicing and the joining of air ducts in aircraft interiors. The 3M pressure-sensitive acrylic adhesive used on the tape delivers consistent performance when applied over existing tape splicing, bonds well to

Tedlar and other common aerospace materials and maintains its adhesion for extended periods of time through wide climate and temperature variations. The conformable glass cloth tape is effective on uneven cargo panels and resists the wear found in intensively used aviation environments.



Boeing 757 cargo hold

The value

By switching to the new tape, BA Engineering has immediately secured cost savings of £21,000 per annum. The 3M solution also offers improved long-

term reliability thanks to a formulation that avoids the use of heavy metals such as antimony trioxide, the use of which is expected to be restricted by the EU.



3M 398FR application



3M 398FR