

INSPIRE PASSENGER CONFIDENCE

Airlines can improve lavatory hygiene by installing touchless and disinfecting technologies from IWG to safeguard the health of all those on board

As the aviation industry deals with the effects of the global pandemic, passenger health is receiving unprecedented levels of attention. Studies show that improving cabin hygiene not only safeguards health, but also grows passenger confidence. The trend towards improved cabin hygiene is clear, and of all the areas on board, it is easy to see why the lavatory would be a key area for passenger anxiety.

International Water Guard (IWG) has been concerned with passenger health since it pioneered the use of ultraviolet (UV) light to disinfect aircraft water over 30 years ago. To this day, IWG continues to develop products that promote passenger health. The company's new 'Healthy Lav' offering is a collection of products, including touchless and disinfection technologies, to help airlines meet the challenges of improving lavatory hygiene.

It is well established that many pathogens, including bacteria, spores and viruses such as those that cause Covid-19, can be transmitted through contact with infected surfaces. Touchless technology can reduce a passenger's need to come into physical contact with high-risk areas in the lav, and hence reduce the risk of transmission.

IWG's Healthy Lav consists of a touchless faucet, touchless flush, touchless call attendant alert, a space- and weight-saving lavatory water heater upgrade (the High Efficiency 'HE' Heater) and a powerful, compact LED UV water disinfection unit (the UVL1). IWG is also developing a touchless soap dispenser and touchless trash can lid. The products can be taken as one package or separate products.



The need for improved cabin hygiene doesn't just apply to new aircraft, and many airlines will want to integrate this technology into their existing fleets. The requirement for products to be multi-platform and simple to integrate is self-evident. The Healthy Lav has been designed with ease of integration as a core principle. All the touchless products and the UVL1 can be powered from IWG's Lavatory Control Module, meaning only one new power input to the lavatory is required.

Furthermore, existing cutouts in backsplashes and panels can be reused. The HE Heater, which has an FAA PMA, is a drop-in replacement that uses existing brackets, water and electrical connections. The UVL1 is compact, so it can be installed in tight spaces.

Airframers often demand an MTBF for lavatory products of 50,000 – 100,000 hours. Adding complexity to any system will naturally raise concerns about reliability. For the Healthy Lav, such concerns are mitigated by the fact that all the products exceed airframers' requirements. The Healthy Lav touchless products and UVL1 are line-replaceable units and can be integrated into the cabin management system to provide health status updates, reducing maintenance effort.

Adding new products with additional functionality can add weight, but with the Healthy Lav, the increase is minimal thanks to weight savings from the water heater upgrade and faucet.

The HE Heater is already available. The other products are due to fly Q3 2021 and will be available shortly thereafter. IWG is ready to work directly with airlines, lavatory monument suppliers, airframers and completion centres to support all aspects of installation. ☒

The entire range of touchless products can be powered from a single source



LEFT: THE COMPACT UVL1 LED UV WATER DISINFECTION UNIT

BELOW: IWG'S TOUCHLESS LAVATORY TECHNOLOGIES AND HIGH-EFFICIENCY HEATER

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