



Research Request:

**Aircraft Crash Axe– Requirements and Standardization**

Research Response:

**Published Requirements**

**Regulations:**  
Regulatory requirements for U. S. FAA registered aircraft:

- CFR 14 Part 91: Each airplane accommodating more than 19 passengers must be equipped with a crash axe.
- CFR 14 Part 135: for aircraft with a seating configuration of more than 19 passengers, a crash axe, carried so as to be accessible to the crew but inaccessible to passengers during normal operations.

**Standards:**  
Business Aviation Standards: IS-BAO

- Aircraft with a seating configuration of more than 19 passengers shall be equipped with a crash axe.

No crash axe requirements are described for aircraft with less than a 19 passenger capacity.

**Aircraft Crash Axe Standardization- U. S. CFR 14 Part 91 Operations**

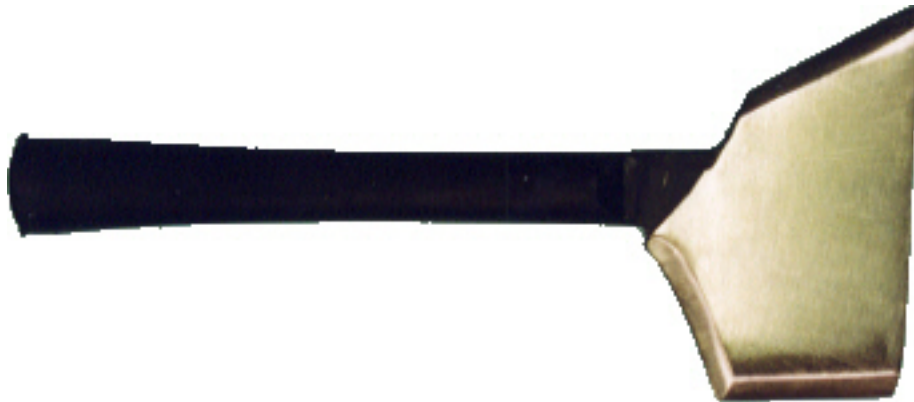
Although there are no set requirements for axe placement there are several factors worthy of consideration.

1. Security. Before a crash axe is placed in a location accessible to passengers the potential risks must be evaluated. (Note: Part 135 operation does not allow passenger access to a crash axe.) In a Part 91 private business aviation environment these risks may be perceived as minimal, but they should not be ignored. If the determined risks are acceptable then placement of one or more crash axes will depend upon a variety of factors, described below.

## 2. Placement

- Cockpit. If crash axes are carried then one should be located in or very near the aircraft cockpit to provide easy and quick access for flight crew members. The axe should be mounted in the cockpit onto an interior wall or panel.
- Cabin. If a crash axe is provided in the cabin its recommended location is on a wall near an emergency exit. The axe can be clip mounted to an interior wall for easy locating and quick access by cabin crew or passengers. If a wall mount is not practical then it is recommended the axe be placed in a compartment with other emergency equipment like life rafts, for example.

3. Storage. It is recommended that a crash axe always be stored with a sheath made of leather or other similar sturdy material, covering all sharp points and blade areas.



## Conclusion

The requirement to carry a crash axe only exists for larger cabin business jets with passenger seating of 19 or more. Although there is no specific requirement for placement of a crash axe, for Part 135 operations it must not be directly accessible by passengers. For Part 91 operating aircraft with less than 19 passengers seating, a crash axe is optional and if part of the aircraft inventory should be placed in a standard location or locations convenient to its purpose.