

PICTURE OF HEALTH

Lavatory hygiene can be optimised with touchless and disinfection technology from IWG, designed to safeguard the health of all those on board

As the aviation industry deals with the effects of the global pandemic, passenger health has never been so much in focus. As well as working to safeguard health, cabin hygiene measures can also have a vital role to play in making passengers feel more confident about flying. Of all 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 began using ultraviolet (UV) light to disinfect aircraft water more than 30 years ago. The company continues to develop products that promote passenger health. Its new Healthy Lav collection includes various touchless and disinfection technologies, all designed to help business jet OEMs, luxury charter airlines, fractional ownership companies, head-of-state and other corporate jet operators meet the challenges of improving lavatory hygiene.

REDUCING CONTACT

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 the need for passengers and crew to come into physical contact with high-risk areas and hence reduce the risk of transmission.

Healthy Lav consists of a touchless faucet; touchless flush; touchless call attendant alert; the High Efficiency (HE) Heater, a lavatory water heater upgrade

designed to save space and weight; and the UVL1, a compact LED UV water disinfection unit. The products can be taken as one package or separately.

Responding to the sector's focus on luxury and detail, the range now includes Italian-styled, lightweight carbon fibre faucets. Matching accessories – such as towel rails, drain covers, latch inserts and entertainment console surrounds – enable a harmonious cabin theme.

EASE OF INTEGRATION

Demand for hygiene solutions isn't restricted to new aircraft, and IWG anticipates many operators will want to integrate its technology into existing fleets. The requirement for products to be suitable for multiple platforms, and simple to integrate, is 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, so only one new power input to the lavatory is required. Existing cutouts in backsplashes and panels can be reused. The HE Heater, which has an FAA PMA, is a drop-in replacement utilising existing brackets, water and electrical connections. The UVL1 is designed to be installed in tight spaces.

Airframers often demand an MTBF for lavatory products of 50,000-100,000 hours, and adding complexity to any system raises concerns about reliability. IWG notes that Healthy Lav products exceed OEM requirements. The touchless products and UVL1 are line-replaceable units and can be integrated into the CMS via RS 485 to provide health status



To supplement the range, IWG is also developing a touchless soap dispenser and touchless waste can lid

ABOVE: THE HEALTHY LAV RANGE INCLUDES TOUCHLESS TECHNOLOGIES AND A HIGH-EFFICIENCY HEATER

LEFT: THE UVL1 LED UV WATER DISINFECTION UNIT

FAR LEFT: A CARBON FIBRE FAUCET



updates, reducing maintenance effort. Adding new products can mean weight increases, but IWG has worked to ensure these are minimal, yielding weight savings from the water heater upgrade and new lightweight faucets, particularly the carbon fibre range.

The HE Heater is already available. The touchless products and UVL1 are due to fly in the third quarter of 2021, becoming available shortly thereafter. IWG is ready to work directly with business jet OEMs, operators, owners, completion centres and interior designers to support all aspects of installation. ☒



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