

Press Release

Issued : July 2003

From: Semmco Limited

Issued No. 4367

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Aegean Airlines gives top quality care to disabled passengers



Greece's premier airline, Aegean Airlines, flies to eleven destinations in Greece and seven International airports. Aegean is seen as an innovator within the industry, embracing technological advances for aircraft and ground support equipment that, together with the best possible human resources, ensures good flight experiences for all its passengers. The company's underlying philosophy is safety, comfort, convenience and high quality of service for all its passengers. So for passengers with special needs, all the necessary services are provided to make their flights as comfortable as possible. To overcome the problems of transporting passengers with walking difficulties in and out of the cabin via aircraft steps, Aegean has purchased several Aircraft Loaders from Semmco. The new Aircraft Loader provides a safe and smooth method of transporting passengers in wheelchairs or service/galley carts from ground level to a cabin height of 3m .

Alexandra Kafka, Administration and Purchasing Manager at Aegean Airlines explains, "The primary purpose of all ground and flight personnel at Aegean is the passengers' safety. The company has committed all of its attention, resources and efforts in this goal and pays attention to detail for all its passengers. Aegean personnel carried out trials on Semmco's new Aircraft Loader at Athens Airport, which proved so successful that Aegean has now purchased three



with the possibility of another six in the near future. The Semmco Aircraft Loader is very easy to manoeuvre, which consequently means that our turnaround can be faster. Unlike other loaders, it can be towed because its four free wheels are not restricted by any drive mechanism, it is excellent value for money, simple to operate by only one person, and affords the disabled passenger dignity and comfort whilst boarding and disembarking.”

The Semmco Aircraft Loader complies with the 90/269/EEC requirements and UK 1992 regulations for manual handling of loads and is fitted with safety gates, handrails and where required, the necessary lights for manoeuvring in public places.

The first stage of the loading is by the tail lift (capable of lifting 250kgs) that takes the passenger or trolley/galley cart from ground level to the staging area. Once on the staging area, the passenger or load can be transported from the 1m level up to a height of 3m by the chain-mail protected scissor lift. The Aircraft Loader incorporates an aircraft interface that enables the operator to lower the bridge in the precise position inside the aircraft, by simply operating a lever. The safety rails then slide into position allowing safe and easy transportation of the passenger, trolley or load. Solid tyres make the unit stable yet manoeuvrable and the loader can be towed easily behind an air-side vehicle, baggage tractor or small bus. The Loader incorporates a tail lift, scissor loader and interlock systems. It is fully compliant with IATA requirements, is CE marked and is built to be compliant with customer safety and operational requirements.

Semmco is also developing a 5-6 metre access height unit for wide body aircraft. This will be self-powered but based upon existing well proven technology and with a user-friendly operation. For more information, please visit www.semmco.com.

If you would like to use the press release or accompanying photograph, please contact

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