



PORTABLE ELECTRONIC DEVICES

1. Portable electronic devices (PEDs) powered by lithium batteries can cause a dangerous evolution of heat which can result in a fire. This can be caused by overheating when the device is powered on or when the battery is damaged by contact with other objects or by rough handling during transport. While the *Technical Instructions for the Safe Transport of Dangerous Goods by Air* do not prohibit carriage of PEDs in checked baggage, they recommend that they be carried in the cabin where an incident can be immediately mitigated. The risk of all PEDs being carried as checked baggage was not taken into account when developing these provisions as most passengers chose to carry them in the cabin.

2. Some States have recently banned the carriage of large personal electronic devices (PEDs) in the passenger cabin due to security concerns. This will significantly increase the number of PEDs powered by lithium batteries in cargo compartments. States are encouraged to emphasize the need for operators to take this into account through their safety risk assessment procedures and to recommend that operators take the following actions:

- a) Clear information should be provided to passengers explaining that:
 - 1) The device must be completely switched off (not in sleep or hibernation mode) and packed in protective packaging to prevent unintentional activation or damage. Suitable protection could be provided by the use of a rigid suitcase and/or cushioning material such as clothing to prevent movement;
 - 2) Carriage of spare batteries, power banks and portable electronic smoking devices (e.g. e-cigarettes, personal vaporizers) in checked baggage is currently forbidden. Therefore, if security or other requirements prohibit these items from being carried in the cabin, passengers should be informed that they are precluded from carrying them in either checked or carry-on baggage.
- b) Operators should consider appropriate procedures for the return or disposal of devices when confiscated from passengers;
- c) Operators should consider assisting passengers in safely packing their PEDs at check-in or at boarding gate areas, to include, for example, the provision of strong, rigid packaging and cushioning material;
- d) Operators should consider the potential for higher concentrations of lithium battery powered devices in close proximity to each other and to other dangerous goods transported in cargo and in passenger baggage when conducting their safety risk

assessments. Mitigation measures which should be considered include dispersing baggage and cargo in a manner that prevents concentrations of PEDs in a single location in the cargo hold; applying quantity limitations on PEDs in any single container or bulk loaded compartment; and stowing baggage and cargo in a manner that prevents movement; and

- e) Operators should provide information to codeshare and alliance partners and ensure appropriate advice is provided to transfer passengers.

3. For further information, you are invited to contact ICAO (Dr. Katherine Rooney, Chief, Cargo Safety Section, Air Navigation Bureau, by email at css@icao.int).

Issued under the authority of the Secretary General