



Cabin Safety Guidance Electronic Cigarettes

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NOTICE

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Section 1—Background

Electronic cigarettes, e-cigars and personal vaporizers are used as a smoking or cessation device and mimic smoking. The user inhales a heated vapor containing propylene glycol, glycerin, water, flavorings and in some cases, nicotine. This is also known as “vaping”.

These devices may be manufactured to look like real cigarettes, pipes or cigars, or may have unique design and color features.

Local customs and culture may prevent the sale, distribution or possession of electronic cigarettes. Where they contain nicotine, some countries consider them to be a medical device, or a tobacco product which may be subject to customs declaration on entry. There is no consistent policy between States.

Electronic cigarettes contain a heating coil powered by a lithium battery. They are therefore classified as portable electronic devices (PEDs). They are activated by airflow and in some cases cannot be manually switched off. Several examples of igniting electronic cigarettes have been reported due to accidental or continuous activation and during charging.

In most States, smoking has been strictly banned on board commercial passenger aircraft for almost two decades. Globally, it is now common knowledge to the travelling public that smoking is not permitted on board commercial passenger aircraft.

Nevertheless, incidents of passengers smoking on board or tampering with lavatory smoke detectors continue to occur. Smoking on board the aircraft at any time is considered unruly and dangerous behavior and in many States, offenders are subject to prosecution.



Section 2—Dangerous goods regulations

Where the electronic cigarettes are powered by lithium batteries, the requirements of the IATA Dangerous Goods Regulations (DGR), paragraphs 2.3.5.9 and 2.3.5.17 must be met.

These require that electronic cigarettes including e-cigars and vaporizers when carried by passengers or crew must be in carry-on baggage only. They must be protected from inadvertent activation and must not be charged on board the aircraft.

Spare batteries must be protected either in their original packaging or by otherwise insulating the terminals and be in carry-on baggage only.

Spare liquid cartridges can be carried in accordance with security regulations.

Section 3—Recommended practice

Airlines should determine their policy on the carriage and use of electronic cigarettes, e-cigars and vaporizers taking into consideration:

- Dangerous Goods regulations;
- Local restrictions at countries of origin and destination;
- Smoking regulations on board aircraft;
- Recommendations and guidance from regulators.

Where not forbidden by local custom at origin or destination, these devices may be accepted on board in the passenger's carry-on baggage, provided they remain stowed and unused at all times. Charging on board, whether from an aircraft or personal power supply, is not permitted.

Where smoking is forbidden on board, the use of electronic or simulated smoking or vaping materials should also be prohibited by both passengers and crew at all times. Permitting the use of these devices on board could insinuate that smoking is allowed and result in passengers attempting to smoke real cigarettes or other smoking products, resulting in increased unruly passenger events.

As they must not be carried in checked baggage, airlines should develop procedures to ensure passengers are advised to remove electronic cigarettes from their carry-on baggage in the event of a gate check operation (e.g. valet/sky check) or in cases where excess carry-on baggage must be placed in the hold.

Airlines are encouraged to communicate their electronic cigarette policy to passengers as widely as possible, including but not limited to: their website, during ticket purchase, the check-in process (on-line, kiosks, check-in agents, etc.), and through any other means already established to inform passengers of dangerous goods regulations and related company policies.

Section 4—References

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Safety Alert for Operators (SAFO) 15003, [Fire Risk of Electronic Cigarettes \(e-cigarettes\) in Checked Baggage](#) (22 January 2015).

International Air Transport Association (IATA), [Dangerous Goods Regulations, 57th edition](#)

International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), Electronic Bulletin (EB) 2014/074 AN 11/2.1, [Dangerous Goods Carried by Passenger and Crew — Incidents Related to Electronic Cigarettes](#) (December 10, 2014).

Us Department of Transport (DoT) Final Rule – [Use of electronic cigarettes on aircraft](#) (2 March 2016)

