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# Guidance on Electronic Cigarettes

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2<sup>nd</sup> | Edition

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## 1. BACKGROUND

An electronic cigarette, or e-cigarette, is a smoking simulation and/or cessation device that mimics smoking. It is considered a portable electronic device (PED) as most electronic cigarettes are powered by lithium batteries. Electronic, simulated smoking materials include: electronic cigarettes, electronic cigars and electronic pipes.

Several incidents have been reported involving electronic cigarettes overheating by way of their heating element being accidentally activated, resulting in a fire in checked baggage.

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.



## 2. ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES ON BOARD AIRCRAFT

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. This requires that spare lithium batteries and the electronic cigarettes must be carried in passenger carry-on baggage. In addition, recharging of electronic cigarettes and/or batteries on board the aircraft is not permitted.

## 3. RECOMMENDED PRACTICE

Electronic, simulated smoking materials (cigarettes, pipes, cigars) should be prohibited from use by both passengers and crew at all times. Operators should not permit the use of any item which could insinuate that smoking is permitted on board aircraft. Permitting the use of these devices on board could result in passengers attempting to smoke real cigarettes (or other smoking products) and result in increased unruly passenger events. They can however be accepted on board in the passenger's carry-on baggage, for passenger use at destination, provided they remain stowed and unused at all times the passenger's carry-on baggage.

Airlines should also 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.

#### **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, 56<sup>th</sup> edition, Addendum no. 2.](#)

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).

