



FLIGHT SAFETY INFORMATION

LITHIUM BATTERIES

The danger posed by lithium batteries has to be highlighted especially when carrying them in baggage on flights. Certain items are dangerous when carried in an enclosed and pressurised surrounding of an aircraft. Lithium batteries have become a safety concern to the aviation industry, following a number of incidents in which batteries that had not been treated appropriately, and are believed to have started fires on aircraft. Such batteries are used in the majority of portable electronic devices, such as MP3 players, digital cameras, electronic readers, camcorders and laptop computers. Only recently, a mobile phone caught fire on a Boeing 747 inbound to London Heathrow after being crushed by a seat as a passenger reclined. Cabin crew were able to extinguish the fire before any serious damage occurred.

When installed correctly, lithium batteries are unlikely to cause a problem, but they do pose a serious risk of short circuiting - which can lead to a fire - if packed loose. Overheating can also occur if the device in which they are installed activates inadvertently in-flight. A number of serious incidents in the last couple of years in which these batteries are believed to have started fires in cargo shipments.

Some lithium batteries are permitted in passenger baggage, but specific conditions apply. Portable electronic devices containing lithium metal or lithium ion cells or batteries, such as watches, calculating machines, cameras, cellular phone, laptop computers, camcorders, etc. when carried for personal use. Spare lithium metal or lithium ion cells or batteries for such portable electronic devices may be carried in carry-on baggage only.

Dangerous goods that must not be carried as checked or cabin baggage include:

- Explosives, such as fireworks, flares, toy gun caps;
- Gases, such as culinary blowtorches, camping or compressed gas cylinders, tear gas, mace or CS gas devices;
- Flammable materials such as petrol, lighter fuel, paint, thinners, non-safety matches, firelighters;
- Poisons, such as weed killers, insecticides; and
- Corrosives, such as filled car batteries.

Passengers can obtain further information on what can and cannot be transported on an aircraft on this website – go to Quick Link – then Provisions for Dangerous Goods. Be sure to also check with your airline and travel safely.

