

SAFETY INFORMATION 03/2025

4th March 2025



SAFETY MEASURES FOR THE CARRIAGE OF LITHIUM-ION BATTERY (POWER BANK)

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This Safety Information (SI) is issued to reinforce the necessity for airline operators to ensure passenger awareness, proper handling of portable electronic devices (PEDs), and adherence to operator guidelines for the carriage of lithium-ion batteries during air travel.
- 1.2 Following the recent Airbus A321 incident at Gimhae International Airport on 28 January 2025, in which a fire broke out in the aft fuselage before departure to Hong Kong, all 176 occupants successfully evacuated without injury.
- 1.3 While the exact cause of the fire remains under investigation, lithium-ion batteries are suspected. This incident highlights the importance of strict safety measures regarding the transport and handling of batteries by passengers.

2 Background

- 2.1 The carriage of lithium-ion batteries, particularly power banks and spare batteries, poses a significant fire risk if not handled correctly. The recent incident has prompted an immediate review of battery safety measures to mitigate potential risks.
- 2.2 Current procedures require power banks and spare lithium batteries be carried in **carry-on baggage only**, as they are strictly prohibited in checked luggage. However, recent incidents highlight ongoing challenges in passenger compliance and awareness. Many travellers either fail to declare these items or misunderstand the storage requirements, increasing the risk of in-flight emergencies.
- 2.3 Customer service personnel and cabin crew play a pivotal role in risk mitigation. Proactive communication is essential to ensure passengers adhere to storage requirements.

3 Key Considerations

3.1 Passenger Awareness & Check-in Process

- a) Customer service personnel shall actively engage with passengers at check-in to enquire about power banks and lithium-ion batteries.
- b) Awareness efforts shall extend beyond checked baggage to include carry-on baggage and items, ensuring compliance with airline procedures.

3.2 Storage & Handling Restrictions

- a) Airline operators should advise passengers to avoid storing power banks in overhead compartments and instead carry them on their person. This aligns with industry best practices and recommendations following the recent incident.
- b) Airline operators shall clearly communicate these restrictions through check-in announcements, boarding briefings, and in-flight safety messages.

3.3 Incident Response & Mitigation

- a) Cabin crew shall remain vigilant for potential battery hazards and be trained in responding to thermal runaway incidents.
- b) Airline operators shall ensure the availability of fire containment bags and lithium-ion battery fire extinguishing equipment.

4 Recommendations

- 4.1 All airline operators should reinforce passenger screening procedures at check-in and boarding to ensure compliance with lithium-ion battery transport regulations.
- 4.2 Cabin crew must remain vigilant in identifying potential hazards and be adequately trained to manage lithium-ion battery incidents.
- 4.3 Continuous public awareness campaigns should be conducted to educate passenger on the importance of safe lithium-ion battery transport, ensuring that safety guidelines are followed to mitigate risks.



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