



WORKING PAPER

DANGEROUS GOODS PANEL (DGP)

TWENTY-SIXTH MEETING

Montréal, 16 to 27 October 2017

Agenda Item 2: Development of recommendations for amendments to the *Technical Instructions for the Safe Transport of Dangerous Goods by Air (Doc 9284)* for incorporation in the 2019-2020 Edition

ACCIDENTAL ACTIVATION OF E-CIGARETTES CARRIED BY PASSENGERS AND CREW

(Presented by A. Stubblefield)

SUMMARY

This working paper proposes to amend the list of dangerous goods permitted to be carried by passengers or crew (Table 8-1) to address safety concerns with accidental activation of portable electronic smoking devices (e.g. e-cigarettes) in carry-on baggage.

Action by the DGP: The DGP is invited to consider the proposed amendments to Table 8-1 as shown in the Appendix A of this working paper.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Specific provisions were added into the ICAO Technical Instructions, Part 8, Table 8-1, for portable electronic smoking devices (e-cigarettes) through the issuance of Addendum No. 1 to the 2015-2016 ICAO Technical Instructions (26-May-2015). The provisions added were the prohibition of e-cigarettes in checked baggage, spare batteries must be protected from short circuits, and the recharging of the device and batteries is not permitted on board the aircraft.

1.2 In the United States, there have been ten documented heat/smoke/fire incidents involving e-cigarettes since the introduction of these provisions in Table 8-1 (i.e. during the period May 2015 through May 2017). Seven of those incidents occurred inside a passenger plane and three occurred inside the airport.¹ These incidents typically involved the e-cigarette device while it was being transported in

¹ The three incidents that occurred inside the airport may be relevant to the safety risk of lack of effective measures to prevent accidental activation of an e-cigarette's heating element inside a passenger aircraft because the passengers in possession of such devices were either imminently going to be boarding a passenger aircraft or had just departed one. These incidents are considered near-misses because they could have occurred on-board the aircraft.

carry-on baggage (See Appendix B for incidents). While the specific cause of each of these incidents is unknown, a concern in all these incidents is the accidental activation of the e-cigarette device. When these e-cigarette devices are activated, the power from the battery is allowed to energize a heating coil. This heating coil is only designed to be turned on for a few seconds while it is submerged or surrounded by e-cigarette liquid (E-liquid, E-juice, etc.). If the heating coil is energized for longer than a few seconds, all the e-cigarette liquid is vaporized, and the entire e-cigarette device starts to overheat, smoke, and potentially catch on fire. This heat is also transferred to the battery, which are mostly lithium ion batteries, with the potential to drive the lithium ion battery into thermal runaway.

1.3 The proposal introduces a provision in the e-cigarette entry in Table 8-1 that requires passengers or crew to take effective measures for preventing accidental activation of the heating element of the e-cigarette device when transporting such devices in carry-on baggage on-board passenger aircraft. Examples of effective measures include, but are not limited to, removing the battery from the e-cigarette; separating the battery from the heating coil; placing the e-cigarette into a protective case; using a protective cover, safety latch, or locking device on the e-cigarette's heating coil activation button; and electronics or technology in the device designed to prevent accidental activation such as requiring the e-cigarette to be powered on before the heating coil button can be activated. In most e-cigarettes, the battery can either be easily removed or easily separated from the heating element.

2. ACTION BY THE DGP

2.1 The DGP is invited to consider the amendment of the provisions for dangerous goods carried by passengers or crew as shown in Appendix A to this working paper.

APPENDIX A

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO PART 8 OF THE TECHNICAL INSTRUCTIONS

Part 8

PROVISIONS CONCERNING
PASSENGERS AND CREW

Table 8-1. Provisions for dangerous goods carried by passengers or crew

Items or articles	Location			Approval of the operator(s) is required	The pilot-in-command must be informed	Restrictions
	Checked baggage	Carry-on baggage	On the person			
Consumer articles						
...						
19) Battery-powered portable electronic smoking devices (e.g. e-cigarettes, e-cigs, e-cigars, e-pipes, personal vaporizers, electronic nicotine delivery systems)	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	a) carried by passengers or crew for personal use; b) spare batteries must be individually protected so as to prevent short circuits (by placement in original retail packaging or by otherwise insulating terminals, e.g. by taping over exposed terminals or placing each battery in a separate plastic bag or protective pouch); c) each battery must not exceed the following: — for lithium metal batteries, a lithium content of 2 grams; or — for lithium ion batteries, a Watt-hour rating of 100 Wh; d) each lithium battery must be of a type which meets the requirements of each test in the UN Manual of Tests and Criteria, Part III, subsection 38.3; and e) recharging of the devices and/or batteries on board the aircraft is not permitted; <u>and</u> f) <u>devices must have effective measures in place to prevent accidental activation of the heating element while on board the aircraft.</u>
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APPENDIX B

E-CIGARETTE DEVICE SMOKE/HEAT/FIRE EVENTS
(Specific to Carry-On Baggage Since May 25, 2015)

Date	Source	Type of Battery	Device (if applicable)	Carrier	Aircraft Type (Passenger or Cargo)	Incident Summary
5/14/2017	Airport Authority	Li-ion	E-cig	N/A	N/A	Information, including video footage, from the Seattle Airport Authority and witness statements show an individual's e-cig exploding, resulting in burning of his shirt and backpack.
4/19/2017	Carrier	Li-ion	E-cig	Southwest	Passenger	Passenger on Southwest flight number 4639 from Columbus, OH to Chicago, IL (MDW) reported to a flight attendant that there was smoke coming from her purse. Passenger was carrying an e-cigarette/vaping device. The flight attendant put the e-cigarette/vaping device and two spare lithium ion batteries into a fire safe bag to extinguish the smoke.
4/9/2017	Media	Li-ion	E-cig	N/A	N/A	A passenger was at Hudson News convenience store, near gate "D" in LAS airport prior to boarding a flight. Left front pocket exploded and fire erupted. Passenger was burned and hospitalized with burns to his left thigh and left hand.
12/15/2016	Carrier	Lithium-ion	E-cig	American Airlines	Passenger	American Airlines flight 1129, which was en route from Dallas-Fort Worth, TX to Indianapolis IN, diverted to Little Rock, AR, after a passenger observed that his e-cigarette had overheated and was emitting smoke. The cabin crew used fire extinguishers to extinguish the e-cigarette.
10/30/2016	Carrier/SPO T Report	Lithium-ion	E-cig	Alaska	Passenger	At Ketchikan, AK (KTN) airport, during boarding of Alaska Airlines flight 67, a passenger's backpack containing an e-cigarette caught fire. The passenger dumped contents on the floor and crew used fire extinguishers to put out the fire. No injuries reported. Scorch marks to carpet of the aircraft were the result of the fire.
9/7/2016	Airport Operations	Lithium-ion	E-cig	N/A	N/A	As a passenger was entering the baggage claim area of DAL airport an e-cig in her purse exploded and burned the purse, some of its contents and charred her shirt. Witnesses stated there were small projectiles, which were on fire exiting her purse. They were extinguished by people standing at the baggage claim area waiting for their bags.

Date	Source	Type of Battery	Device (if applicable)	Carrier	Aircraft Type (Passenger or Cargo)	Incident Summary
6/14/2016	Carrier	Lithium-ion	E-cig	Spirit	Passenger	During boarding a passenger was carrying a backpack when another passenger noticed the fire. The plane was offloaded immediately. The DEN Fire Department responded, extinguished the fire and determined the e-cigarette in the carry-on bag (backpack) was the cause. The aircraft was cleared, cleaned and put back in service. The passenger chose to take the remains of the backpack with him.
6/10/2016	Carrier	Lithium-ion	E-cig	Spirit	Passenger	Flt 765 from San Jose Costa Rica to Fort Lauderdale, e-cig began to smoke in a passenger's backpack on seat. Fire extinguished with a fire extinguisher and then the e-cig was submerged in water. Flight continued and landed in FLL without further issues.
3/16/2016	Carrier	Lithium-ion	E-cig	Delta	Passenger	DL flt 689- E-cig in passenger's carry-on caught fire during boarding process. Fire extinguished by flt attendant
6/17/2015	Carrier	Lithium-ion	E-cig	Southwest Airlines	Passenger	During a Southwest flight from LAS-ALB a passenger stated he felt the e-cigarette in his pants pocket pop and he leg began to burn. When he removed the e-cig from his pocket he saw the battery shoot out of the device. The e-cig was cracked and smoking. The crew submerged the battery and device in water. The passenger had minor burns on his leg but refused medical attention upon arrival in ALB.