

Background

On 21st March 2017, the US Department of Homeland Security issued a security directive requiring passengers on flights into the USA from specific airports, to place all electronic devices larger than a cellphone or smartphone, into their checked baggage.

Soon afterwards, the UK Department for Transport issued similar instructions (but listing countries of departure and giving guidelines on prohibited devices based on size) on flights operating into the UK.

The following information is correct at 22nd March 2017 but may be updated at any time. Other countries may also determine that similar restrictions are to be introduced. Operators are advised to monitor the situation as it develops.

	USA https://www.dhs.gov/news/2017/03/21/fact-sheet-aviation-security-enhancements-select-last-point-departure-airports	UK https://www.gov.uk/government/news/additional-hand-luggage-restrictions-on-some-flights-to-the-uk
Routes	<p>All non-stop flights to the USA from the following airports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Queen Alia International Airport (AMM), Jordan • Cairo International Airport (CAI), Egypt • Ataturk International Airport (IST), Turkey • King Abdul-Aziz International Airport (JED), Saudi Arabia • King Khalid International Airport (RUH), Saudi Arabia • Kuwait International Airport (KWI) • Mohammed V Airport (CMN), Morocco • Hamad International Airport (DOH), Qatar • Dubai International Airport (DXB), United Arab Emirates • Abu Dhabi International Airport (AUH), United Arab Emirates 	<p>All non-stop flights to the UK from the following countries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jordan • Egypt • Turkey • Saudi Arabia • Lebanon • Tunisia
Restriction	<p>All electronic devices larger than a cell phone/smart phone will not be allowed to be carried onboard the aircraft in carry-on baggage or other accessible property.</p> <p><i>Note: Necessary medical devices will be allowed to remain in a passenger's possession after they are screened.</i></p>	<p>Phones, laptops and tablets which are larger than:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • length: 16.0 cm • width: 9.3 cm • depth: 1.5 cm <p>will not be permitted to be carried onboard the aircraft in carry-on baggage.</p>

Lithium battery powered devices in checked baggage

IATA Dangerous Goods Regulations permit portable electronic devices (PED) with installed lithium batteries in checked baggage provided that the passenger has taken measures to prevent unintentional activation. In all cases, the device must be powered 'off'.

The following devices are permitted in **carry-on baggage only and must not be placed in checked baggage**:

- Power banks*.
- Spare batteries*.
- Electronic cigarettes.

*Spare batteries and power banks must be individually protected to prevent short circuit by placement in the original retail packaging or by otherwise insulating terminals, e.g. by taping over exposed terminals or placing in a separate plastic bag or protective pouch.

Guidance for operators

Operators may need to review existing procedures, to ensure compliance with these changes. Any review should consider the potential need for extended passenger processing time at check-in, security and boarding.

As there are differences between the devices permitted in the cabin on routes to the UK and USA, operators should include clear and up-to-date information to passengers on the policy and processes to handle the removal of such electronic devices for carriage in checked baggage.

Advice should be replicated on websites of codeshare and alliance partners operating and selling tickets on affected routes.

Transfer passengers in transit through affected airports to the USA and UK must be advised accordingly and surrender such devices for carriage as checked baggage before departure.

Procedures should be implemented which allow for the safe packing of such devices intercepted at check-in and at boarding gate areas. Devices must be packed in such a way that they can be powered down and protected from damage before being carried as checked baggage. Devices which are surrendered by passengers at the boarding gate area to be loaded into the cargo hold, should be packed into strong boxes that will protect the device from damage during transportation and loading. Operators should consider placing protective materials (such as bubble wrap) and suitable rigid boxes at boarding gates, for the safe packing of surrendered devices.

Operators risk assessments should consider all potential outcomes of these changes and devise mitigations to protect devices from damage during all stages of their transport.