



# Passengers Travelling with Lithium Batteries - Guidance Document

Revised for the 2026 Regulations

## Introduction

- This document provides guidance for airline passengers on various devices that contain lithium batteries, including power banks, small vehicles, e-cigarettes, smart luggage, baggage tags and tracking devices.

**Note:**

See "Additional Information" for links to documents which provide guidance on the provisions and procedures regarding mobility aids.

- △ It is based on the provisions set out in the 2025-2026 Edition of the ICAO *Technical Instructions for the Safe Transport of Dangerous Goods by Air* (Technical Instructions) and the 67<sup>th</sup> Edition (2026) of the IATA Dangerous Goods Regulations (DGR).

There are different limitations and requirements when the lithium batteries are transported by air as cargo or carried by passengers. However, limitations primarily depend on:

- a) The type of the lithium battery:
  - the Watt-hour (Wh) rating for lithium ion (rechargeable) batteries, or
  - the lithium metal content in grams (g) for lithium metal (non-rechargeable) batteries.

**Note:**

Watt-hour rating, expressed in Wh, shows the power of the lithium cell or battery, which is calculated by multiplying the rated capacity in ampere-hours by the nominal voltage ( $Wh = Ah \times V$ ).

All lithium-ion batteries are required to have the Watt-hour rating marked on the outside of the battery case.

If passenger handling staff are unable to verify the Watt-hour rating by checking either the battery, or the user documentation, the operator may not permit the carriage of the lithium battery, or the lithium battery powered device.

- b) How the battery is to be transported:
  - the battery itself (removed and/or spare (additional))
  - installed in a device (removable and non-removable)

The information in this document is intended for guidance purposes only. It should not be relied upon as a source of regulatory compliance.

Please note that there has been significant amendment of the material in this document in order to accommodate upcoming changes to the provisions around power banks. When compared to the 2025 edition of this document, certain text changes can be identified by:

□	Addition of an item
△	Change to an item

⊗	Deletion of an item
👉	More restrictive requirement than ICAO

## Table of Contents

<b>Introduction</b> .....	1
<b>Table of Contents</b> .....	2
<b>Definitions</b> .....	3
<b>Operator Approval</b> .....	6
<b>How to Carry Lithium Batteries when Travelling on a Passenger Aircraft</b> .....	6
Power banks.....	7
Spare lithium batteries.....	7
Portable electronic devices (PED) and Portable medical electronic devices (PMED) containing lithium batteries.....	7
Baggage with installed lithium batteries – “smart luggage” .....	7
Bag tags and GPS tracking devices.....	7
Small vehicle.....	7
Electronic cigarettes containing batteries – “e-cigarettes” .....	7
<b>Table 1</b> .....	8
<b>Additional Information</b> .....	9

## Definitions

**Lithium Battery** refers to a family of batteries with different chemistries, comprising many types of cathodes and electrolytes.

Lithium metal battery and lithium ion battery are the two types that listed under passenger provisions in the DGR. The general groupings are batteries within a device, spare batteries, batteries removed from a device (which are then treated in the same way as spare batteries, but may be referred to a removed battery) and power banks. Power banks (see below) are no longer referred to as “spare batteries”.



**Lithium metal batteries** are generally primary (non-rechargeable) batteries that have lithium metal or lithium compounds as an anode. Lithium metal batteries are generally used to power devices.



**Lithium-ion batteries** (also abbreviated as Li-ion batteries) are a secondary (rechargeable) battery where the lithium is only present in an ionic form in the electrolyte. Lithium-ion batteries are generally used to power devices.



**Portable electronic device (PED)** is an easily carried device, with removable or non-removable battery(ies) that have the capability to store, record, and/or transmit text, images/video, or audio data. Most of the consumer commodities can be listed as PED such as mobiles, laptops, cameras, radios, audio devices, watches.



**Portable medical electronic device (PMED)** is an easily carried, removable or non-removable lithium battery powered equipment that used in healthcare for monitoring, operating or managing medical conditions such as cardiac, blood pressure, respiratory monitors, wearable smart devices, oxygen concentrators.



△ **Power bank** is an easily carried universal external power source, capable of providing power to multiple devices such as mobile phones and. Generally, power banks are made up of multiple cells.



□ **Spare Batteries** are usually either single cell batteries (AAA, CR123, etc.) or multi-celled batteries but designed to be inserted into or directly affixed to a specific device.



**Small vehicle** is a removable or non-removable lithium battery powered equipment that used for personal transportation, including rideable suitcases.



- **Mobility Aid** – are devices used by passengers whose mobility is restricted by either a disability, their health or age, or a temporary mobility problem (e.g. broken leg).

**Note:** See “Additional Information” for links to documents which provide guidance on the provisions and procedures regarding mobility aids.



- △ **Smart luggage** refers to bags or suitcases that incorporate built-in electronic features designed to improve convenience, security, or tracking for travellers. Depending on the model, smart luggage may include power banks with USB charging ports, weight sensors to prevent overpacking, electronic locking systems, GPS tracking devices with or without GSM capability or Bluetooth, RFID and Wi-Fi technology or even motorized/self-propelled functions, powered by lithium batteries.



- **Bag tags** are devices that are replacing the paper baggage label and for the quick drop-off points at the airports; and **GPS tracking devices** that are attached to baggage and/or other belongings for tracking purposes with or without GSM capability, Bluetooth, RFID, or Wi-Fi technologies.



**e-cigarette (vape or pipe)** is a lithium battery powered device that uses heat to vaporize a liquid to simulate the act of smoking.



## Operator Approval

- △ Passengers wishing to carry large numbers of spare batteries, power banks, PEDs or devices which have larger batteries, will need to obtain the approval of the operator (see [Table 1](#)).

Information on lithium batteries, and other dangerous goods, is usually provided on the airline's website as well as part of the check-in process. Passenger-facing airline staff are trained to deal with most enquiries and there are escalation processes, including referral to specialist passenger-care teams when required.

In the case of multiple spare batteries, the operator may require additional separation between the batteries or that they are at a low state of charge (<25% indicated when inserted into the device). For this reason, it is recommended that passengers contact the airlines (operator) well in advance to obtain approval and to apply any additional restrictions that the operator may impose as a condition of the approval.

In order to get operator approval, the passenger will need to be able to give:

- a) the Wh rating for lithium ion or how much the lithium content (in grams) contained for lithium metal batteries,
- b) number of batteries,
- c) if the battery is removable or non-removable.

The operator has the right to not give an approval if the information is not adequate.

In addition to the information below, please also check Table 1 for the Watt-hour or lithium metal content limitations.

## How to Carry Lithium Batteries when Travelling on a Passenger Aircraft

- △ All batteries which are being carried by passengers or being transported as cargo on a passenger aircraft must be of a type that meets the requirements of the UN Manual of Tests and Criteria, Part III, subsection 38.3. Additionally, passengers are advised to:

1. **Pack light:** Only bring the devices and batteries you really need.
2. **Avoid last minute recharging:** Airlines prefer spare batteries and power banks to be at less than 25%. If you recharge your power bank or PED, then allow it to cool before packing it. Do not recharge it prior to boarding and then store it in the overhead locker.
3. **Separate spare batteries, power banks and PEDs:** Ensure that Wireless power banks are properly switched off and not so close to you phone as to start recharging it, should it be inadvertently turned on. Keep some space between spare batteries.
4. **Stay alert:** If a device is hot, smoking, or damaged, tell the crew (or airport staff) immediately.
5. **Keep devices with you:** Always carry phones, laptops, cameras, vapes (if allowed) and other battery-powered items in your hand baggage, not in checked baggage.
6. **Protect loose batteries:** Keep spare batteries and power banks in their original packaging or cover the terminals with tape to prevent short-circuits.
7. **Gate check reminder:** If your hand baggage is taken at the gate to go in the aircraft baggage hold, remove all lithium batteries and devices first.
8. **Check battery size:** For larger batteries (over 100 watt-hours, such as those used in larger cameras, drones, or power tools), check with your airline as approval may be required.
9. **Check airline rules:** Always confirm your airline's policies, as requirements may differ in compliance with local regulations.

## Power banks

- Recent events have resulted in further proposed restrictions regarding power banks carried by passengers on aircraft. While it will take some time for these proposals to be accepted into regulation, airlines are moving early to adopt these measures in the interests of aviation safety.
  - ✎ Passengers are limited to a maximum of two lithium-ion power banks not exceeding 100 Wh.
  - ✎ Power banks must not be recharged from an in-aircraft power supply.
  - ✎ Power banks should not be stored in the overhead lockers
  - ✎ Power banks should not be used to provide power to other devices during taxi, take-off or landing

Airlines may impose more stringent conditions on the carriage and use of power banks by passengers.

## Spare lithium batteries

- △ Spare batteries must be individually protected to prevent short circuits by placement in the 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 and carried in carry-on baggage only.

## Portable electronic devices (PED) and Portable medical electronic devices (PMED) containing lithium batteries

PEDs and PMEDs containing lithium batteries for personal use, should be carried in carry-on baggage. However, they may be subject to specific operator restrictions on the size and weight of baggage permitted in the cabin.

If devices are to be carried in checked baggage:

- a) measures to protect the device from damage and to prevent unintentional activation;
- b) the device must be completely switched off (not in sleep or hibernation mode) \*.

## Baggage with installed lithium batteries – “smart luggage”

Smart luggage with integrated lithium batteries, are also considered as PED as per the Regulations.

## Bag tags and GPS tracking devices

- Bag tags and GPS tracking devices are not restricted.

## Small vehicle

- △ Small vehicles, including rideable luggage, generally do not meet the same criteria as [mobility aids](#). Small vehicles are classified as PEDs.

Most small vehicles have batteries that exceed 160 Wh.

## Electronic cigarettes containing batteries – “e-cigarettes”

Electronic cigarettes including e-cigars, e-pipes and other personal vaporizers containing batteries for personal use must be in carry-on baggage only.

- a) Measures to protect the device from damage and to prevent unintentional activation.
- b) Recharging these devices and/or batteries on board the aircraft is not permitted.

Table 1

Please check the table to determine if / how the devices containing batteries, as well as spare batteries and power banks can be carried, and whether the approval of the operator is required.

Wh rating	lithium metal content	Configuration	Carry-on baggage	Checked baggage	Operator approval
≤ 100 Wh	≤ 2 g	Installed in PED or PMED	Yes <sup>1</sup>	Yes*	No <sup>1</sup>
		Spare battery(ies)	Yes <sup>2</sup>	No	No <sup>2</sup>
		Power bank	Yes <sup>3</sup>	No	No <sup>3</sup>
> 100 Wh but ≤ 160 Wh		Installed in PED or PMED	Yes	Yes	Yes
		Spare battery(ies)	Yes <sup>4</sup>	No	Yes
		Power bank	Forbidden		
	> 2 g but ≤ 8 g	Installed in PMED only	Yes	Yes	Yes
		Spare batteries for PMED only	Yes <sup>4</sup>	No	Yes
		e-cigarette	Yes	No	No
≤ 2.7 Wh	≤ 0.3 g	Installed in smart luggage	Yes	Yes	No
> 2.7 Wh	> 0.3 g	Removable battery integrated in smart luggage	Yes	Yes**	No
		Non-removable battery installed in smart luggage	Forbidden		
>160Wh		Must be prepared and carried as cargo in accordance with the IATA Dangerous Goods Regulations			

- Each person is limited to a maximum of 15 PED. The operator may approve the carriage of more than 15 PED.
- Each person is limited to a maximum of 20 spare batteries of any type. The operator may approve the carriage of more than 20 batteries.
- Limited to a maximum of 2 power banks.
- Limited to a maximum of 2 spare batteries per device

\* When devices are carried in checked baggage, must be completely switched off (not in sleep or hibernation mode), unless

- lithium content does not exceed 0.3 g for lithium metal batteries per device, and
- Wh rating does not exceed 2.7 Wh for lithium-ion batteries per device.

\*\* If the baggage is to be checked in, the lithium battery must be removed and the removed battery must be carried in the cabin.

## Additional Information

- Further information for passengers, including battery powered wheelchairs and mobility aids is available on:  
<https://www.iata.org/en/programs/cargo/dgr/dgr-guidance-passengers/>
- Further information for lithium batteries is available on:  
<http://www.iata.org/lithiumbatteries>
- Further information for Dangerous Goods is available on:  
<https://www.iata.org/en/programs/cargo/dgr/>

Please contact the airline or your national civil aviation authority if you have further concerns about travelling with lithium batteries and battery-powered wheelchairs or mobility aids.

You can also contact the IATA Dangerous Goods Support team if you have questions or concerns which may not have been addressed in this document at: [dangood@iata.org](mailto:dangood@iata.org).