Subject: Fire Risk of Electronic Cigarettes in Checked Baggage


Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Safety Alert for Operators (SAFO) 15003 “Fire Risk of Electronic Cigarettes (e-cigarettes) in Checked Baggage” dated 22 January 2015.

Applicability: All aircraft operators.

Description: Several incidents were reported to ICAO involving electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) overheating by way of their heating element being accidentally activated resulting in a fire in checked baggage. ICAO is considering an amendment for the 2015-2016 Edition of Doc 9284 (Technical Instructions for the Safe Transport of Dangerous Goods By Air). Pending that amendment, ICAO has issued EB 2014/074 AN 11/2.1 to all Member States that describes the risks of carrying e-cigarettes and contains a recommendation to Member States in this regard. Prompted by this, the FAA has issued SAFO 15003.

Recommendation(s): Following the ICAO EB 2014/074 AN 11/2.1 and FAA SAFO 15003, EASA recommends aircraft operators to require passengers to carry e-cigarettes in the cabin, where an incident can be immediately mitigated, and not in their checked baggage. Aircraft operators are encouraged to communicate their e-cigarette policy to passengers through any means already used to inform passengers about dangerous goods and related company policies.

Contact(s): For further information contact the Safety Information Section, Certification Directorate, EASA.
E-mail: ADS@easa.europa.eu.

To obtain a copy of ICAO Documents, contact the ICAO Customer Services Unit, telephone +1 514 954 8022, facsimile +1 514 954 6769, email: sales@icao.int.

This is information only. Recommendations are not mandatory.