

AIR CARRIER OPERATIONS BULLETIN NO. 1-94-11

STOWAGE OF GALLEY SERVICE ITEMS

(Formerly, Air Carrier Operations Bulletin No. 1-76-6.
Sections 121.311 and 121.589 of the FAR).

Section 121.577 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (FAR) prohibits a certificate holder from movement on the surface, taking off, or landing an airplane when any food, beverage, or tableware, furnished by the certificate holder, is located at any passenger seat. In an emergency situation requiring evacuation, litter from food service of any kind (including coffee and rolls) can be hazardous due to poor footing. Accordingly, FAR Section 121.577 prohibits serving of any food or beverage, regardless of type of containers used, during movement of the surface, takeoff, and landing. In addition, any food item or container which the passenger carries on board the aircraft would be considered carry-on baggage and must be properly stowed in accordance with FAR Section 121.589 for movement on the surface, takeoff, and landing.

- a. Section 121.577(b) of the FAR also states that, during movement on the surface, takeoff, and landing, passenger food and beverage trays, serving carts, and each movie screen that extends into an aisle must be secured in their stored positions; i.e., correctly positioned in their storage compartment and restraint means, if any, fastened. If there is a question regarding the stowage of a particular item, and it must be stowed for takeoff and landing, then it must also be stowed for movement on the surface.
- b. It should be noted that certificate holders may arrange to provide limited beverage and food service to their passengers when that aircraft is no longer moving on the service (an example of this is while the aircraft is stationary on a taxiway in a long queue awaiting takeoff). In such cases, the certificate holder should have specific procedures for flight crewmembers and flight attendants to follow, including coordination and communication between the flight deck and the passenger cabin(s), to ensure that these requirements are met before aircraft movement on the surface resumes.
- c. In addition, galley supplies stowed outside the galley are considered cargo and must be stowed in accordance with FAR Sections 121.285 and 121.589. If galley supplies or other cargo is placed under a seat and it weighs over 20 pounds, the container or restraint must be FAA-approved usually through a supplemental type certificate.
- d. Principal operations inspectors should ensure that their assigned certificate holders are aware of this information and that it is available to all crewmembers.