



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Aviation
Administration**

InFO

Information for Operators

InFO 13005
DATE: 4/22/13

Flight Standards Service
Washington, DC

http://www.faa.gov/other_visit/aviation_industry/airline_operators/airline_safety/info

An InFO contains valuable information for operators that should help them meet certain administrative, regulatory, or operational requirements with relatively low urgency or impact on safety.

Subject: Acceptance of Passenger Supplied Medical Oxygen Onboard Aircraft

Purpose: This InFO provides clarification on the proper procedures to accept passenger-provided supplemental oxygen for onboard use.

Background: The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Office of Hazardous Materials Safety has become aware of operators that are improperly accepting medical oxygen provided by passengers for onboard use. Oxygen is classified as a hazardous material, representing a risk as both a non-flammable gas and as an oxidizer. Inadvertent release can cause or increase the risk of combustion onboard aircraft. Compliance with regulations under Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) and Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations (49 CFR) is therefore required to mitigate these risks.

Note: Provisions for the in-cabin *stowage* of medical-use oxygen for passengers to use at their destination are addressed in 49 CFR 175.501(e). Air ambulances and other special operations may also be outside the scope of this guidance and, if so, may be subject to other regulatory provisions.

Discussion: This InFO addresses three types of supplemental oxygen use addressed by regulation.

Compressed Oxygen

Air carriers may elect to provide compressed oxygen to passengers. Compliance with 14 CFR, part 121, § 121.574, part 125, § 125.219, or part 135, § 135.91 (as applicable) is required. Operators electing to provide their own oxygen must adhere to provisions established in the operator's maintenance program.

Regulations do not allow passengers to provide their own compressed oxygen for use onboard aircraft. Non-compliance with 14 CFR regulations may also result in enforcement under hazardous materials regulations under 49 CFR.

Portable Oxygen Concentrators

Portable oxygen concentrators (POC) are medical device units that: (1) Do not contain hazardous materials as determined by the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration; (2) are regulated by the Food and Drug Administration; and (3) assist a user of medical oxygen under a doctor's care. These units separate oxygen from nitrogen and other gases contained in ambient air and dispense it in concentrated form to the user. Air carriers may be required by DOT to accept the use of approved POCs

in accordance with 14 CFR part 382 § 382.133. SFAR 106 is the current regulatory requirement for the use of POCs and InFO 09006, dated 5/1/09 may provide useful information to operators in regards to continued regulatory compliance. A list of FAA-approved POCs may be found at:
http://www.faa.gov/about/initiatives/cabin_safety/portable_oxygen/

Liquid Oxygen

With the exception of Supplemental Type Certificated (STC) liquid oxygen delivery systems installed onboard helicopter air ambulances (HAA), for patient use, the FAA Office of Hazardous Materials Safety is unaware of any other operator, domestic or foreign, who provides liquid oxygen for passenger medical use during flight. The transportation of liquid oxygen is subject to regulatory requirements and must be approved by the FAA. U.S. hazardous materials regulations prohibit the transportation of liquid oxygen on both passenger and cargo aircraft. Improper transport of liquid oxygen can present a significant safety risk and operators can be liable for large civil penalties.

Recommended Action: Directors of safety, directors of operations, directors of maintenance and training managers should review operation procedures and training programs to ensure compliance with regulations regarding carriage and use of supplemental oxygen and POCs.

Contact: Questions or comments regarding this InFO should be directed to the Part 121 Air Carrier Operations Branch, AFS-220 at (202) 267-8166. FAA Hazardous Materials Branch Managers are also able to provide assistance on this issue. Their contact information is available at:
http://www.faa.gov/about/office_org/headquarters_offices/ash/ash_programs/hazmat/contacts/