
DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION
Airworthiness Notices

A/20

PROHIBITION ON USE OF PORTABLE ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN AIRCRAFT

1. Portable electronic devices are now commonly used by aircraft crew and passengers for various purposes, including entertainment. Such devices are carried as personal luggage and will not have been designed to the stringent standards normally applied to aircraft equipment.
2. Radio interference of a level sufficient to interfere with sensitive aircraft equipment several feet away is known to be generated by much of the portable electronic devices. In large aircraft the separation of passengers from sensitive aircraft equipment is usually sufficient to avoid interference, but in small aircraft, on flight decks and where equipment is in use that produces exceptional levels of interference some aircraft equipment may be affected.
3. By using portable electronic devices in aircraft both in flight and on the ground, the radio signals transmitted from these devices can interfere with the navigational and communication equipment that may jeopardize aircraft safety.
4. The other major problem is the significant interference to the mobile telephone network itself from airborne mobile phone users. The mobile telephone network is a cellular concept designed specifically for land mobile use only. This cellular concept reuses identical channel frequencies in the same geographic area for non-adjacent calls. The extended propagation path available from aircraft in flight results in significant interference to the mobile network because multiple channels can be simultaneously selected in different cells. This interference includes the disconnection of other established calls, crossed conversations and numerous other problems.
5. Therefore being Myanmar, the ICAO contracting states, Department of Civil Aviation has decided to follow the international convention and prohibit the use of portable electronic devices in public transport aircraft during the entire flight.
6. Portable electronic devices include the following equipments but not limited to_
 - (i) Mobile telephone
 - (ii) Cellular telephone
 - (iii) Potable video equipment
 - (iv) Laptop or portable PC without printer
 - (v) Electronic games, electronic calculators and electronic shavers
 - (vi) Cassette/ CD/ DVD minidisk players (used electronic headphones only), MP3 players (used electronic headphones only)
7. In accordance with the facts described above, operators should not permit the use of the portable electronic devices in their aircraft during the entire flight and the passengers on board should be informed of these prohibitions by expressing in the in flight Magazines and/or announcement.