



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

InFO

Information for Operators

InFO 09014
DATE: 9/23/09

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: Portable Electronic Devices (Credit Card Readers).

Purpose: This InFO informs aircraft operators of the potential for communication and navigation equipment interference and fire hazard caused by Portable Electronic Devices (PED).

Background: A recent inquiry into the use of portable electronic credit card readers has revealed that some operators may be using these PEDs aboard U.S.-registered aircraft without having appropriately and adequately determined their potential for interfering with communication and navigation equipment.

Discussion: Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) §§ 91.21, 121.306, 125.204, and 135.144 limits the operation of PEDs aboard U.S.-registered civil aircraft. These rules also permit the use of specific PEDs after the aircraft operator has determined that the PED will not interfere with the operations of the aircraft nor cause problems stemming from hazardous materials (hazmat). Along with interference potential, any devices containing hazmat such as lithium batteries must have the associated risk of the hazmat being carried on board aircraft reviewed by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Office of Hazardous Materials in coordination with the Principal Avionics Inspector. For more information on fire hazards caused by lithium type batteries, see SAFO 09013, Fighting Fires Caused by Lithium Type Batteries in Portable Electronic Devices. It has been the responsibility of aircraft operators to determine whether a particular PED would cause interference when operated aboard its aircraft. Advisory Circular (AC) 91.21-1B, Use of Portable Electronic Devices Aboard Aircraft, provides information and guidance for assistance in compliance with §§ 91.21, 121.306, 125.204, and 135.144.

Recommended Action: Directors of safety, directors of operations, training managers, and crewmembers in all operations should verify that a proper determination was made to allow the use of PED credit card readers according to make and model of aircraft in their fleets. You should also be aware of the risks associated with all PEDs in the passenger cabin. While the carriage of a specific PED may not be addressed by FAA regulation, installed or spare lithium batteries must be compliant with hazmat requirements.

Contact: Questions and comments on this InFO should be addressed to the Aircraft Maintenance Division, AFS-300, telephone (202) 385-6412. Regional hazmat contacts can be found at http://www.faa.gov/about/office_org/headquarters_offices/ash/ash_programs/hazmat/contacts/index.cfm.