
TEL: (501) 225-2014
(501) 225-2052
FAX: (501) 225-2533
AFS: MZBZYAYX
Email: belize.ais@civilaviation.gov.bz
WEB site: www.civilaviation.gov.bz
ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 367
BELIZE, C.A.

BELIZE
DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION
AERONAUTICAL INFORMATION SERVICE



AIC
A003/26
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Safe Carriage and Use of Lithium Battery Power Banks

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Aeronautical Information Circular (AIC) is to provide information and guidance on the safe carriage and use of lithium battery power banks by passengers and crew in accordance with the applicable provisions of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and contained in the ICAO Technical Instructions for the Safe Transport of Dangerous Goods by Air (Doc 9284).

The provisions addressed in this AIC are intended to reduce the risk and potential consequences of lithium battery thermal events, including fire and smoke onboard an aircraft. ICAO introduced additional restrictions on power banks through Addendum No. 1 to the 2025-2026 Edition of Document 9284, effective March 2026.

2. WHO DOES THIS APPLY TO

This AIC applies to:

- All air operators conducting commercial and non-commercial air transport
- Aerodrome operators
- Aviation security screening personnel

3. BACKGROUND

Power banks contain lithium batteries and, if damaged, defective, improperly handled or otherwise subject to a thermal event, may present a risk of fire, smoke and thermal runaway. ICAO identified emerging safety risks associated specifically with power banks carried by passengers and introduced additional restrictions to reduce the likelihood and impact of such events.

The ICAO restrictions, approved by the ICAO Council on March 27th, 2026, include a limit of no more than two power banks per person and a prohibition on recharging power banks while on board an aircraft. Passengers are also advised not to use power banks to recharge portable electronic devices during flight.

All users are reminded to visit this AIS office in accordance with the international and national standards of ICAO.

4. DEFINITIONS

Power Bank – A portable lithium battery-powered device designed to recharge other electronic devices.

Lithium Battery – A family of batteries with different chemistries, including lithium-ion and lithium metal cells and batteries.

Thermal Runaway – A condition where an increase in temperature causes a self-sustaining reaction leading to fire or explosion.

5. NEW ICAO PROVISIONS

The following restrictions apply to passengers:

5.1 Carriage Limits

- Passengers are limited to a **maximum of two (2) power banks per person**.

5.2 Use Onboard Aircraft

- **Recharging of power banks during flight is strictly prohibited.**
- Power banks must not be connected to any aircraft power supply or used to charge other devices in-flight.

5.3 Crew Provisions

- Flight crew members may carry and use power banks in accordance with operational requirements and operator approval.

6. PASSENGER HANDLING REQUIREMENTS

- Power banks are considered **spare lithium batteries** and must be carried in **carry-on baggage only**.
- Each power bank must be:
 - Protected against short circuits
 - Free from damage or defects
- Damaged, recalled, or counterfeit power banks are **strictly prohibited**.

7. STAKEHOLDER RESPONSIBILITIES

7.1 Air Operators shall:

- Ensure passengers are informed of these new restrictions prior to boarding
- Update company manuals, procedures, and safety briefings accordingly

All users are reminded to visit this AIS office in accordance with the international and national standards of ICAO.

- Train personnel to identify non-compliant lithium battery devices
- Report incidents involving lithium batteries in accordance with BCAR 18 and ICAO requirements

7.2 Aerodrome Operators

- Support effective passenger awareness of the applicable power bank restrictions within relevant terminal operations
- Provide appropriate safety information or signage, where applicable, at passenger processing areas such as check-in, security screening and departure gates.

7.3 Aviation Security Personnel (Screeners)

Aviation security personnel shall:

- Identify power banks presented for screening in passenger carry-on baggage;
- Apply the applicable screening procedures to power banks and passenger baggage;
- Where a power bank or baggage is identified as not complying with applicable carriage restrictions, take the appropriate action in accordance with established security screening procedures;
- Where necessary, refer identified non-compliance to the air operator for appropriate action; and
- Inform passengers of the applicable restrictions where non-compliance is identified.

8. IMPLEMENTATION

Air Operators, aerodrome operators, and other relevant aviation stakeholders are encouraged to review their applicable procedures, passenger information and training materials to ensure that the restrictions contained in this AIC are appropriately communicated and implemented.

*****END*****

All users are reminded to visit this AIS office in accordance with the international and national standards of ICAO.