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HEALTH SAFETY ENVIRONMENTAL



Alert #: SA 6-19

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Authorized batteries aboard helicopters

The U.S. Department of Transportation imposed a new ruling on April 1, 2019 regarding lithium batteries being carried onto aircraft. The following is authorized batteries that can be brought aboard aircraft per the U.S. DOT.

For *carry-on baggage* passengers can carry most consumer-type batteries and portable battery-powered electronic devices for their own personal use in carry-on baggage. Spare batteries must be protected from damage and short circuit. Battery-powered devices must be protected from accidental activation and heat generation. Damaged or recalled batteries, including when in a device, must not be carried on. **Batteries allowed in carry-on baggage include:**

- **Dry cell alkaline batteries:** typical AA, AAA, C, D, 9-volt, button-sized cells, etc.
- **Dry cell rechargeable batteries** such as Nickel Metal Hydride (NiMH) and Nickel Cadmium (NiCad). For rechargeable lithium ion batteries; see next paragraph.
- **Lithium ion batteries** (a.k.a.: rechargeable lithium, lithium polymer, LIPO, secondary lithium). Passengers may carry all consumer-sized lithium ion batteries (up to 100 watt hours per battery) **packed in or with consumer-size device.** This size covers AA, AAA, cell phone, PDA, camera, camcorder, handheld game, tablet, portable drill, and standard laptop computer batteries. The watt hours (Wh) rating is marked on newer lithium ion batteries. **External chargers are also considered to be a battery. Passengers may have two-spare lithium ion batteries associated with consumer-size device carried or checked.**

Lithium metal batteries (a.k.a.: non-rechargeable lithium, primary lithium). These batteries are often used with cameras and other small personal electronics. Consumer-sized batteries (up to 2 grams of lithium per battery) **may be carried in or with consumer-size device.** This includes all the typical non-rechargeable lithium batteries used in cameras (AA, AAA, 123, CR123A, CR1, CR2, CRV3, CR22, 2CR5, etc.) as well as the flat round lithium button cells. Passengers may have two-spare lithium metal batteries associated with consumer-size device carried or checked

- **Non-spillable wet batteries (absorbed electrolyte)**, limited to 12 volts and 100 watt hours per battery. These batteries must be the absorbed electrolyte type (gel cells, AGM, etc.) that meet the requirements of 49 CFR 173.159a(d); i.e., no electrolyte will flow from a cracked battery case. Batteries must be in strong outer packaging or installed in equipment. Passengers are also limited to two (2) spare (uninstalled) batteries. Spare batteries' terminals must be protected (non-conductive caps, tape, etc.) within the outer packaging. Batteries and outer packaging must be marked "non-spillable" or "non-spillable battery." *Note: This exception is for portable electronic devices, not for vehicle batteries.*

***Report all incidents immediately to the Hotline
1-855-543-5163.***

SAFETY ALERT