

GZ: LFA-CC/DG 954-01/10-15

## Safety advice

In light of recent events Austro Control/Dangerous Goods Department issues the following safety advice:

### 1. Fire risks of electronic cigarettes in checked baggage

Electronic cigarettes are being carried by passengers in increasing numbers. Several incidents have been reported involving electronic cigarettes overheating through to accidental activation of their heating elements resulting in fires in checked baggage.

Therefore Austro Control informs all **air operators and ground-handling agents** of this safety risk and strongly advises that operators require passengers to carry such devices in the cabin, where an incident can be immediately mitigated, instead of checked baggage.

If this recommendation will be followed, all concerned ground-handling agents need to be informed as well.

#### Definition of Electronic-Cigarettes:

*Electronic cigarettes, also called personal vaporizers or electronic nicotine delivery systems, are battery-powered devices that simulate tobacco smoking by producing a heated vapour which resembles smoke.*

*The devices have a heating element to vaporize a liquid solution.*

Note: Passengers are at the moment permitted to carry these devices under the international dangerous goods provisions contained in Part 8 of Doc 9284 (passenger & crew provision) in checked baggage.

### 2. Fighting Fires caused by Lithium Type Batteries in Portable Electronic Devices (PEDs) in the aircraft cabin:

Following an increasing number of fires in the cabin caused by lithium battery powered portable electronic devices, the International Civil Aviation Organization has amended its "Emergency Response Guidance for Aircraft Incidents Involving Dangerous Goods", ICAO Doc 9481-AN/928 to include guidance to cabin crew to assist in dealing with such incidents. [ICAO Doc 9481-AN/928 provides in section 3.3 and 3.4](#) detailed cabin crew checklists for handling PED fires in the aircraft cabin. The above mentioned tables are ready to be downloaded from [ACG website](#) and should be used for updating the internal manuals and trainings materials of air operators. Air operators should also verify that adequate equipment for the purpose of responding to dangerous goods incidents, including portable electronic device fires, is carried in the cabin.

### 3. Hidden dangerous goods in checked baggage:

Due to a serious incident at Vienna International Airport (Fireworks in checked baggage caught on fire) check-in and/or baggage-drop off personnel is highly requested to seek for confirmation regarding hidden or undeclared dangerous goods by air in the baggage.