


<b>OPERATIONS ADVISORY NOTICE (OAN)</b>		 Transport Malta  Civil Aviation Directorate Flight Operations Inspectorate Transport Malta Centre Triq Pantar  Lija LJA 2021 Malta
OAN Number: <b>02/26</b>	Issue Date: <b>16<sup>th</sup> June 2026</b>	
Subject: <b>New requirements regarding operator and passenger/crew provisions for the carriage of lithium cells/batteries and power banks</b>		

### General overview

This OAN serves to remind Operators that the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) has published an addendum to the Technical Instructions for the Safe Transport of Dangerous Goods by Air (Doc 9284) 2025–2026 edition, as effective from 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026.

The addendum details important changes to the Operators' exceptions for dangerous goods and to the provisions for dangerous goods carried by passengers and crew. The newly introduced restrictions aim to reduce the likelihood and impact of thermal events involving lithium batteries.

The "IATA Guidance Document for Operators - Power Banks - 2026" has been prepared to support operators in evaluating, controlling, and applying the updates introduced by the addendum.

The IATA guidance document should be used in conjunction with the 67th edition of the IATA Dangerous Goods Regulations (DGR) and will be effective only until 31 December 2026. The 68th edition of the IATA DGR will come into force on 1 January 2027 and will include the changes introduced by the Technical Instructions addendum.

### Highlights of Changes:

- Additional Conditions that the operator must adhere to for lithium cells or batteries (including power banks) carried aboard the aircraft for use or sale on the aircraft by the operator (such as electronic flight bags (EFBs), personal entertainment devices, card readers, etc.).
- Introduction of specific restrictions for the charging, use, storage, and number of power banks to be carried on board the aircraft by passengers and crew.

### Amended Power Bank requirements for crew and passengers:

- Must be carried as carry-on baggage.
- Must not be recharged while on board the aircraft.
- Should not be used to recharge a portable electronic device while on board the aircraft.
- No more than two power banks may be carried per person.
- Must be individually protected to prevent short circuits when not in use (by placement in original retail packaging or by otherwise insulating terminals, such as by taping over exposed terminals or placing each power bank in a separate plastic bag or protective pouch).

## **Requirements for Operators carrying electronic devices containing lithium cells or batteries:**

- a) Spare lithium batteries and power banks must be individually protected to prevent short circuits when not in use.
- b) Measures must be taken to prevent the unintentional activation of the portable electronic devices
- c) The batteries must:
  1. be of a type which meets the requirements of each test in the UN Manual of Tests and Criteria, Part III, subsection 38.3; and
  2. for lithium metal batteries, not exceed a lithium content of 2 g, and for lithium-ion batteries, not exceed a Watt-hour rating of 100 Wh.

## **Key considerations for Operators**

The conditions for the carriage and use of electronic devices and spare batteries (including power banks) must be outlined in the operations manual and/or other appropriate manuals by the Operators to enable flight crew, cabin crew, and other employees to carry out their responsibilities.

The following key considerations are provided to support Operators in managing the transition and ensuring a controlled and coordinated approach to implementation:

- Risk assessment & interim controls: assess emerging risks and, where justified, introduce proportionate temporary measures (e.g. enhanced passenger communication or screening) to demonstrate due diligence without creating confusion.
- Communication: ensure clear, consistent, and phased messaging internally and externally so staff understand changes and passengers are informed without disruption or inconsistency.
- Coordination: align with codeshare partners, service providers, airports, and authorities to ensure a consistent, non-fragmented approach and obtain guidance on timelines and interim measures.
- Compliance & change management: prepare updates to manuals, training, and procedures early to enable smooth, compliant implementation once requirements take effect.

## **Final notes on power banks**

In addition to the above newly introduced restrictions, power banks must continue to meet the following:

- power banks up to 100 Wh rating (lithium ion) or 2 g lithium content (lithium metal) are allowed without operator approval
- power banks greater than 100Wh rating (lithium ion) but not exceeding 160Wh require approval from the operator.

## **Further information**

ICAO News Release: <https://www.icao.int/news/new-power-bank-restrictions-will-safeguard-international-aviation>

IATA Guidance Document for Operators - implementing the changes announced on 27 March 2026: <https://www.iata.org/contentassets/90f8038b0eea42069554b2f4530f49ea/guidance-to-operators---power-banks.pdf>

IATA Passengers Travelling with Lithium Batteries - Guidance Document (Revised for the 2026 Regulations): [https://www.iata.org/contentassets/6fea26dd84d24b26a7a1fd5788561d6e/passengers\\_travelling\\_with\\_lithium\\_batteries.pdf](https://www.iata.org/contentassets/6fea26dd84d24b26a7a1fd5788561d6e/passengers_travelling_with_lithium_batteries.pdf)

Further information for passengers, including battery-powered wheelchairs and mobility aids, is available on: <https://www.iata.org/en/programs/cargo/dgr/dgr-guidance-passengers/>

Further information about lithium batteries is available on: <http://www.iata.org/lithiumbatteries>

Further information about Dangerous Goods is available on: <https://www.iata.org/en/programs/cargo/dgr/>

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