



NIGERIA CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY

Corporate Headquarters: Nnamdi Azikwe International Airport, Domestic Wing, Abuja.
Tel: +234 811 115 0990, +234 811 115 113.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL CIVIL AVIATION **ALL OPERATORS LETTER (DGCA/AOL /26/01)**

REF NO: NCAA/DGCA/OPS/26/01/003
DATE: 23rd January, 2026
FROM: Nigeria Civil Aviation Authority
TO: All Nigerian Airlines
ATTN: Accountable Managers /Quality Managers
SUBJECT: SAFETY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CARRIAGE OF POWER BANKS ON AIRCRAFT

PURPOSE

This All Operators Letter (AOL) is issued to draw the attention of all airline operators to the increasing safety risks associated with the carriage of lithium battery powered devices, particularly power banks, in aircraft cabins, and to communicate updated operational expectations and compliance requirements.

BACKGROUND

There has been a growing number of reported in-flight and ground cabin fire events involving lithium batteries. These risks were further underscored by an aircraft accident in January 2025, in which a fire, likely initiated by a short circuit in a lithium-ion battery stored in an overhead compartment, resulted in the destruction of the aircraft.

In response, several States, international organizations, and airline operators have implemented additional safety measures to reduce the likelihood and severity of lithium battery related incidents.

APPLICABLE REGULATORY REFERENCES

This AOL is issued pursuant to, and should be read in conjunction with, the following:

- a) ICAO Annex 18 — *The Safe Transport of Dangerous Goods by Air*;
- b) ICAO Technical Instructions for the Safe Transport of Dangerous Goods by Air (Doc 9284);
- c) Nigerian Civil Aviation Regulations (NCARs), as amended, including:
 - i. Nig.CARs Part 8 — *Operations of Aircraft*;
 - ii. Nig.CARs Part 15 — *Safe Transport of Dangerous Goods by Air*; and
- d) Applicable NCAA Advisory Circulars and Guidance Materials.

Abuja Regional Office: +234 811 115 3888;
Lagos Regional Office: +234 (1) 2790432; Kaduna Regional Office: +234 807 776 8881
Kano Regional Office: +234 815 555 6642; Port Harcourt Regional Office: +234 7059233510.
NCAA Call Centre: +234(1) 2790439; Email: info@ncaa.gov.ng Website: www.ncaa.gov.ng



AMENDMENT TO PASSENGER AND CREW PROVISIONS

The ICAO Dangerous Goods Panel (DGP/30) has developed amendments to the provisions governing the carriage of power banks by passengers and crew, as contained in Table 8-1 of the ICAO Technical Instructions for the Safe Transport of Dangerous Goods by Air.

The additional restrictions are as follows:

- a) Power banks **must not be charged** while onboard the aircraft and **must not be used to recharge** any portable electronic device during flight; and
- b) **No more than two (2) power banks** may be carried by any individual.

These provisions are in addition to existing requirements that power banks:

- be carried in **carry-on baggage only**;
- be **individually protected** to prevent short circuits; and
- comply with **established energy capacity limits** prescribed in the ICAO Technical Instructions.

STOWAGE OF POWER BANKS

To enhance visibility and enable prompt cabin crew response in the event of a thermal incident, power banks **should not be stowed in overhead compartments**.

Timely detection and intervention are critical to preventing the rapid escalation of lithium battery fires. Accordingly, power banks should be stowed in locations such as:

- under the passenger seat,
- in seat-back pockets, or
- any other operator-designated location **outside the overhead bin**,

where they remain visible and readily accessible to both passengers and cabin crew.

It is recognized that no single stowage location is suitable for all aircraft types and operational environments. Operators are therefore permitted flexibility to determine appropriate stowage arrangements based on aircraft configuration, operational capabilities, and documented risk assessments.

OPERATOR RESPONSIBILITIES AND PASSENGER INFORMATION

Operators are required to ensure that the above requirements are effectively communicated to passengers and personnel.



Accordingly, operators shall ensure that information on power bank carriage restrictions is clearly displayed and communicated through, at a minimum:

- online check-in platforms and mobile applications;
- airport check-in counters;
- baggage acceptance points; and
- baggage and cargo loading areas, as applicable.

Operators should also review and update their operational procedures, crew training programmes, passenger announcements, and safety briefings to reflect these requirements.

SUMMARY OF REQUIREMENTS

In summary, power banks:

- **must be carried as carry-on baggage only;**
- **must be stowed under the passenger seat; or**
- **must be in seat-back pockets; or**
- **must be at any other operator's designated location outside the overhead bin;**
- **must not be recharged while onboard the aircraft;**
- **must not be used to recharge portable electronic devices during flight;**
- **must not exceed two (2) units per person;**
- **must be individually protected to prevent short circuits; and**
- **must comply with established energy capacity limits.**

EFFECTIVE DATE AND COMPLIANCE

The provisions contained in this AOL shall take effect **1st March 2026**.

Operators are expected to achieve full compliance by this date. The Authority may conduct oversight activities, including inspections and audits, to verify implementation. Any challenges affecting timely compliance should be formally communicated to the Authority without delay.

ENQUIRIES

All enquiries regarding this AOL should be directed to the Director, Operations, Licensing and Training Standards (DOLTS).


Capt. Chris Najomo
Director General Civil Aviation



PASSENGER SAFETY NOTICE

CARRIAGE OF POWER BANKS ON AIRCRAFT

For safety reasons, passengers are advised of the following requirements:

POWER BANKS

- Must be carried in **HAND BAGGAGE ONLY**
- Are **NOT PERMITTED** in checked baggage

ON BOARD THE AIRCRAFT

- Do **NOT** charge power banks
- Do **NOT** use power banks to charge phones or other devices
- Do **NOT** place power banks in overhead compartments
- Keep power banks **visible and easily accessible** at all times

QUANTITY LIMIT

- Maximum of **TWO (2)** power banks per passenger

These measures are necessary to reduce the risk of fire associated with lithium batteries.

NIGERIAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY (NCAA)

Your Safety is Our Priority