

Portable electronic devices (PEDs) – frequently asked questions

What is a portable electronic device (PED)?

PEDs are any kind of electronic device, typically but not limited to consumer electronics, brought on board the aircraft by crew members, passengers, or as part of the cargo. PEDs include the following two categories:

- (1) Non-intentional transmitters can non-intentionally radiate transmissions. This category includes, but is not limited to, calculators, cameras, radio receivers, audio and video players, electronic games and toys; when these devices are not equipped with a transmitting function.
- (2) Intentional transmitters (T-PEDs) radiate transmissions on specific frequencies as part of their intended function. T-PEDs include two-way radios, mobile phones of any type, satellite phones, computers with mobile phone data connection, wireless local area network (WLAN) or Bluetooth capability. After deactivation of the transmitting capability, e.g. by activating the so-called 'flight mode' or 'flight safety mode', the T-PED remains a PED having non-intentional emissions.

Can I use my PEDs during my next flight during all phases of flight?

Not necessarily. Safety is always a priority. Under the EASA provisions, once the airline has shown that its aircraft can safely handle interference from PEDs, it may allow the use of such devices. At certain times — for example, during a landing in reduced visibility — the airline crew may instruct passengers to turn off their devices to make absolutely sure these do not interfere with the aircraft's communications and navigation equipment. The airline crew has the right at any time to restrict use of PEDs according to airline policy.

Can I use my mobile phone to make calls on-board the aircraft?

Not necessarily. Depending on the technical conditions, the airline decides on the use of mobile phones to make calls on board the aircraft.

Can I always use medical equipment necessary to support physiological functions?

In general, the EASA provisions for PEDs enable the use of medical equipment at all times. One main reason is that medical equipment is controlled in a more rigorous way than consumer electronics. However, some airlines may restrict the use of such equipment for various reasons. Passengers

should contact their airline prior to the flight and shall follow the airline crew instructions at all times.

Is it mandatory for an airline to apply the EASA provisions on the use of PEDs?

No. Any airline may apply a more restrictive policy on the use of PEDs. The airline decides which PED may be used during which phases of flight.

Can the airline crew ask passengers not to use their PEDs?

Yes. Passengers shall at all times follow the airline crew instructions.

Is the use of PEDs safe?

Yes, the EASA provisions are based on analysis performed by experts from all aviation domains, including airlines, aircraft manufacturers, pilot associations and manufacturers of PEDs. Before the airline may allow the use of PEDs, it has to show that its aircraft can safely handle interference from PEDs.

Do the EASA provisions apply to all airlines operating in Europe?

The provisions apply only to European (EU) airlines. Foreign (non-European) airlines have to respect the policies and rules of their country's civil aviation authority.

Do the EASA provisions apply to all flights of European (EU) airlines?

Yes. However, based on the technical conditions, it is the operator who decides which PED may be used during which phases of flight.

Can I place my PED in the seat pocket?

The airline decides on the specific procedures concerning the stowage of PEDs. Therefore, check with your airline to see what their carry-on baggage and personal items policy allows.

Why does a laptop need to be stowed?

There is no change in stowing bulky items for take-off and landing. Therefore, during taxiing, take-off and landing, bulky items such as laptops need to be safely stowed to prevent injuries in case of an abrupt movement of the aircraft or impact, and where they would not impede evacuation of aircraft occupants (just as tray tables need to be stowed and seat backs must be upright).