



For immediate release
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The Portable Rechargeable Battery Association Supports Transportation Department's Advisory on Battery Safety

The Portable Rechargeable Battery Association supports the U.S. Department of Transportation's safety advisory on the use and packaging of batteries and battery-powered consumer products, such as laptop computers, cell phones, iPods, Blackberries and DVD players, carried aboard an aircraft.

"The Transportation Department's advisory emphasizes the appropriate safeguards that passengers should take to minimize the risk of a battery-related incident aboard an aircraft," PRBA Executive Director George Kerchner said. "Existing federal regulations already require that batteries and battery-powered products carried aboard an aircraft be properly packaged and protected. Today's DOT advisory explains the steps consumers should take to comply with those regulations."

Kerchner also urged air travelers to visit DOT's new website at <http://safetravel.dot.gov> for information and tips about traveling with batteries and battery-powered consumer products.

The DOT website states that it is safe to fly with laptops, cell phones, cameras, and other battery-powered devices. Batteries should remain in these devices and the products carried on board, not checked as luggage. If a passenger does check consumer electronic products, these devices should be packaged properly to prevent accidental activation, according to the website.

According to the DOT, if passengers are traveling with spare batteries, they should:

- Keep spare batteries in the original packaging. If the original packaging is unavailable, insulate the battery terminals by isolating all batteries from any contact with other batteries or metal. Place each battery in a separate package and do not allow a loose battery to come into contact metal objects such as coins, keys or jewelry.
- Place tape across a loose battery's contacts to isolate terminals, which will prevent short-circuiting.

- Use only chargers designed for your type of batteries and if you are uncertain about compatibility, contact the product manufacturer.
- Purchase batteries only from a reliable source and do not carry recalled or damaged batteries aboard the plane.
- Avoid crushing, puncturing, and overheating batteries and don't bump or drop your battery-powered devices.

“PRBA supports the DOT recommendations and is heartened by its conclusions that if passengers take the proper precautions, it is safe to fly with both batteries and battery—powered products,” Kerchner said. “PRBA’s analysis of government research data indicates that many of the extremely rare battery-related incidents could have been avoided if passengers had followed the appropriate safety precautions,” he added. “PRBA hopes the publication of the DOT advisory and the widest possible communication about its recommendations will reduce the number of incidents on aircraft and enhance the safety of airline passengers.”

The members of PRBA power the consumer electronics revolution. We deliver a safe, efficient, and essential power source for notebook computers, cell phones, power tools, PDAs, MP3 players and other cordless devices. PRBA members produce more than half of the world’s lithium-ion cells and account for billions of dollars in annual worldwide sales. With more than 70 members, PRBA is widely recognized as the nation’s authoritative source for information on portable rechargeable batteries. Visit PRBA online at www.PRBA.org .

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