



PASSENGER GUIDANCE ON THE TRANSPORT OF PORTABLE ELECTRONIC DEVICES (PEDS)

Preventing incident
and injury across
the energy industry



**STEP CHANGE
IN SAFETY**

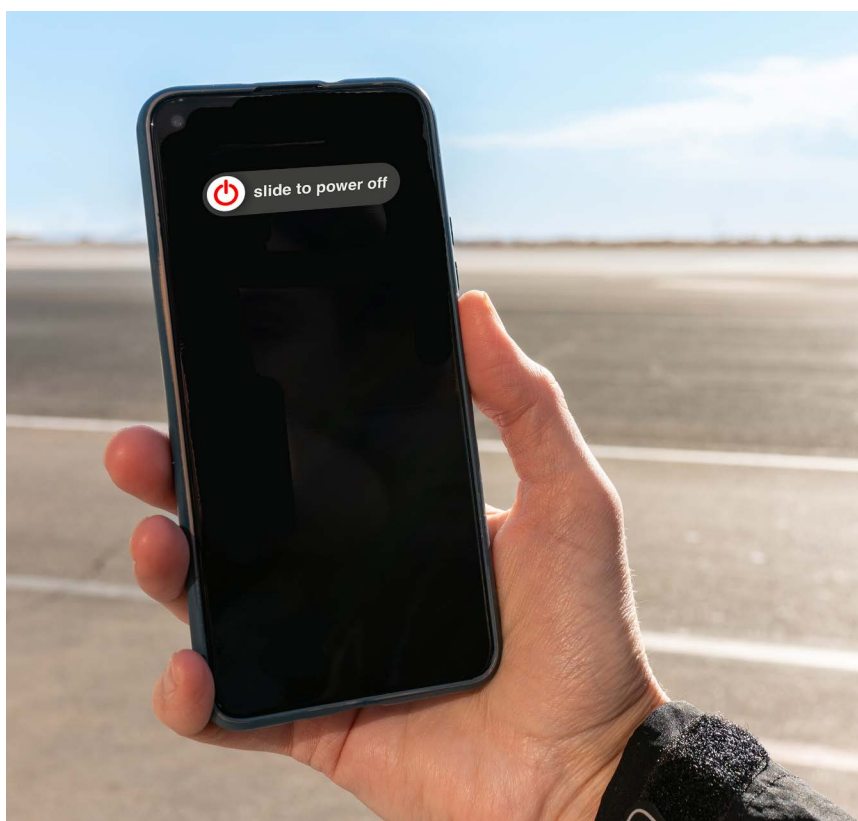
Introduction

This guidance has been developed by Offshore Energies UK (OEUK) and Step Change in Safety in cooperation with offshore installation duty holders and in consultation with helicopter operators and the aviation safety regulator. It is designed to explain the hazards associated with transporting Portable Electronic Devices (PEDs) in helicopters and the common rules around transportation you will find at heliports when mobilising offshore and must also be followed returning onshore. These must be followed when mobilising offshore and returning onshore.

Installation duty holders and helicopter operators retain the right to enforce more rigorous rules over-and-above those documented here and therefore it is the responsibility of the person travelling offshore to check mobilisation paperwork to ensure that the rules and the requirements for packaging are understood for the safety of all passengers onboard your flight.

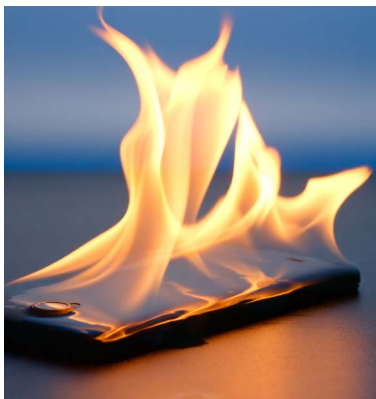
A Portable Electronic Device (PED) means any kind of electronic device, typically but not limited to consumer electronics brought on board by passengers, or as part of the cargo, that is not included in the configuration of the certified aircraft. It includes all equipment that can consume electrical energy including large items such as laptops and tablets down to smaller items such as ear buds, electric toothbrushes and razors.

Failure to follow these rules puts other passengers at risk and deliberate contravention may result in refusal of travel.



Passenger Guidance On The Transport Of Portable Electronic Devices (PEDs)

Hazard



Items containing lithium-ion batteries have the potential to catch fire. They pose a greater risk to helicopters than fixed wing aircraft due to the reduced ability to contain a fire whilst in flight.

Commercial fixed-wing aviation operations have numerous control measures in place to limit the effect of any PED incident. Offshore helicopter flights cannot adopt the same fixed-wing risk mitigation measures and therefore there is a requirement for more stringent rules to limit the likelihood and consequences of a PED fire incident.

It is imperative that everybody travelling in offshore helicopters plays their part in limiting the risk to themselves and colleagues by rigorously following PED policies and rules, and restricting their carriage of non-essential PEDs.

Some devices present greater risk than others and require greater control, e.g. e-cigarettes account for 1/3 of all PED fire or fire-potential events in aviation incidents globally and power banks have caused serious fires in aircraft.

Control measures



The PED risk to offshore helicopters is sufficient to require a restriction in items that travellers may regard as part of normal life and consideration has been given to avoid arbitrary rules.

Number of Devices

Passengers will be encouraged to consider the necessity of PEDs when travelling/ staying offshore and take individual steps to limit the carriage of PEDs in flight. In the UK, there is a limit of **6 PEDs per person**. This figure should be respected. Specialised electronic equipment that is required for work purposes is not included in this restriction but must be presented at the heliport as freight and helicopter operators' procedures are then followed. For pocket-sized devices, only the number of devices that fit in the flight suit leg pocket can be transported.

Condition and Packaging

All PEDs travelling offshore should be in good condition, functional but free from substantial damage, and contained within a protective case* or protective packaging to reduce the risk of damage and prevent activation during transit. Passengers are responsible for ensuring appropriate cases and packaging. Smart watches or fitness trackers may be worn but must be on flight mode and switched off if possible.

Function

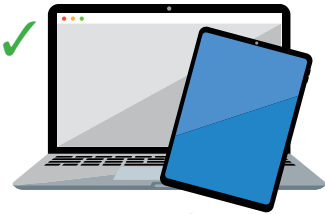
Every PED must be in its safest mode possible, i.e. flight safe mode and powered down. Devices that restart on opening should be secured such that this action is not possible, e.g. a laptop is closed and in a case. Medical equipment that is unable to be fully powered down and switched off must be discussed with the helicopter operator and may be considered for transport.

Communication to Passengers in Advance of Travel

It is essential that information relating to the transport of PEDs is communicated to passengers prior to travel to the respective heliport. This must be communicated by their employing company and/or installation operator as part of mobilisation information. Helicopter operators will ensure passengers are briefed on the actions to take in the event of an incident within the cabin.

* protective case is purpose-built protective packaging that is designed to protect the item from damage, i.e. commonly available hard or soft cases.

Specific Categories of PEDs



Laptops & Tablets

Passengers must ensure laptops and tablets are powered down and switched off prior to the flight. Laptops and tablets must be placed in a secure, protective case or pouch to ensure they cannot be accidentally opened and started up. All laptops and tablets will be carried in the helicopter baggage hold.



Mobile Telephones

Mobile phones must be on flight safe mode and switched off prior to flight. These will be carried in the cabin, in the flight suit leg pocket.



Ear Buds

Ear buds should be switched off where possible, and stored within their protective cases. These should be carried in the cabin, in the flight suit leg pocket.



Smart Watches and Fitness Trackers

Smart watches and fitness trackers must be switched to flight-safe mode, switched off where possible, and either worn or stored in a protective case in the flight suit leg pocket during transit.



Other PEDs

Any other PEDs, eg electric shavers, toothbrushes, hand-held games etc, must be turned off, stored in a protective case and carried in the helicopter baggage hold.



E-Cigarettes

E-cigarettes are **not permitted** on helicopters to or from offshore locations. The lack of manufacturing standards and the broad variety of devices make mitigations more difficult to manage.



Power banks and all other spare lithium-ion batteries

Power banks and all other spare lithium-ion batteries present a significant risk due to the power capacity, and are therefore not permitted. Batteries required for business purposes should be declared in advance by your company and processed in line with the helicopter operators' procedures.

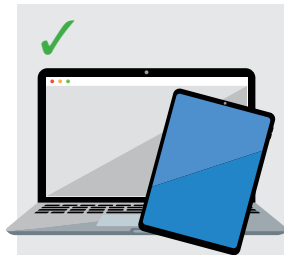
Other items

Devices with alkaline batteries within them shall be treated as PEDs within the maximum count of six. Spare alkaline batteries must be packaged safely according to helicopter operator rules to avoid short circuits.

Exclusions

Car keys, AirTags and digital watches are not treated as PEDs.

EVERY PED MUST BE IN ITS SAFEST MODE POSSIBLE,
I.E. FLIGHT SAFE MODE AND POWERED DOWN.

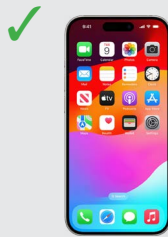


Laptops
and tablets

Condition:
Good, undamaged

Mode:
Flight safe and
switched off

Transport:
Protective packaging
in helicopter baggage
compartment

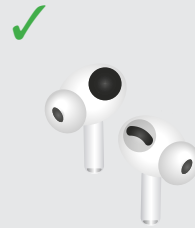


Mobile phones

Condition:
Good, undamaged

Mode:
Flight safe and
switched off

Transport:
Protective case in
flight suit leg pocket



Ear Buds

Condition:
Good, undamaged

Mode:
Turned off
where possible

Transport:
Protective case in
flight suit leg pocket



Smart Watches &
Fitness Trackers

Condition:
Good, undamaged

Mode:
Flight safe and
switched off

Transport:
Worn or stored in
protective case and in
flight suit leg pocket



Other PEDs

Condition:
Good, undamaged

Mode:
Turned off

Transport:
Protective packaging
in helicopter baggage
compartment



E-cigarettes

NOT PERMITTED



Power banks
and all other
spare lithium-ion
batteries

NOT PERMITTED

A **protective case** is purpose-built protective packaging that is designed to protect the item from damage, i.e. commonly available hard or soft cases.



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