

Advisory Circular

CARRIAGE OF OVERSIZED OR ODD-SIZED ITEMS IN THE PASSENGER CABIN

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GENERAL

Advisory Circulars (ACs) are issued by the Director-General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) from time to time to provide practical guidance or certainty in respect of the statutory requirements for aviation safety. ACs contain information about standards, practices and procedures acceptable to CAAS. An AC may be used, in accordance with section 3C of the Air Navigation Act (Cap. 6) (ANA), to demonstrate compliance with a statutory requirement. The revision number of the AC is indicated in parenthesis in the suffix of the AC number.

PURPOSE

This AC provides guidance to demonstrate compliance with, and information related to, the carriage and stowage of oversized or odd-sized items as carry-on baggage in the aircraft passenger cabin.

APPLICABILITY

This AC is applicable for the AOC holder operating in accordance with ANR-121.

RELATED REGULATIONS

This AC relates specifically to Regulation 9 of ANR-121.

RELATED ADVISORY CIRCULARS

- AC 121-1-1 – Guidance on General Requirements in ANR 121

CANCELLATION

This AC supersedes AC AOC-36.

EFFECTIVE DATE

This AC is effective from 1 October 2018.

OTHER REFERENCES

- FAA AC 121-29B Carry-on Baggage

1 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 There have been cases where passengers bring onboard oversized or odd-sized baggage, e.g. large musical instruments that are too large to fit in the approved cabin stowage areas. These oversized or odd-sized baggage, if not secured properly, may cause injuries to passengers during emergency situation and/or impede expeditious egress. Therefore, there is a need to secure these oversized or odd-sized baggage to a seat as “seat baggage” or as “oversized or odd-sized” items in the passenger cabin.
- 1.2 To facilitate such items, the AOC holder may need to consider modifying the carry-on baggage policy to allow the carriage and stowage of such oversized or odd-sized items on or at the passenger seats provided all safety requirements are met.

2 REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

- 2.1 The carriage of oversized or odd-sized baggage in the aircraft passenger cabin is not prohibited as long as the safety of the aircraft and its occupants is not compromised and that the crew is competent in the handling of such baggage in accordance with approved AOC holder’s safety procedures.
- 2.2 ANR-121 specifies that carry-on baggage in the passenger cabin must be properly secured. It also requires the AOC holder to ensure unimpeded evacuation routes during critical phases of flight. The AOC holder therefore should establish procedures to ensure safe stowage of all baggage carried on-board by passengers.

3 CARRIAGE AND STOWAGE OF OVERSIZED OR ODD-SIZED ITEMS

- 3.1 When formulating and developing company’s policy in the processing, management and acceptance of carriage and stowage of oversized or odd-sized items in the cabin, the AOC holder should consider the safety of the flight and passengers in general and whether the carriage has an impact on cabin safety.
- 3.2 The AOC holder should consider, but not limited to, the following when incorporating the carriage of oversized or odd-sized items in his carry-on baggage policy.
 - (a) The item should be contained in a case or covered so as to avoid injury to passengers. The size, weight, packaging and dimensions of the item should be taken into consideration.
 - (b) The item should be properly secured by the aircraft seat belt, safety belts or other tie-downs strong and sturdy enough to eliminate the possibility of shifting in any direction under all flight and ground conditions such as turbulence, rapid descent etc.
 - (c) The item should not be secured at the row of seats adjacent to any emergency exit or any seats that could cause it to impede access to or use of any required emergency exit or regular exit, or of the aisle. It should not be placed on a seat that is along a cross aisle.
 - (d) The item should also not obstruct passenger movement to and from the aisle.

- (e) The item should not be stowed in such a manner that could obstruct any passenger's view of the "Fasten Seat Belt" or "No-Smoking" signs or the required emergency exits signs.
 - (f) The item should not be stowed in such a manner that could obstruct access to any emergency equipment.
 - (g) The weight of the item including the case or covering must not exceed load limit of the seat or any applicable weight restriction for the aircraft. The item should not impose any load on the seats or the floor structure that exceeds the load limitation.
 - (h) The AOC holder should specify the maximum allowable numbers of such carriage taking into consideration the cabin configurations of each aircraft type.
- 3.3 The AOC holder should provide information to passengers and travel agents on the availability and conditions of such carriage in the AOC holder's carry-on baggage policy.

4 TRAINING OF STAFF

- 4.1 The AOC holder should ensure appropriate training is provided to the relevant personnel including airport staff (baggage acceptance staff, check-in counter staff and gate staff) and crew members in the handling of oversized or odd-sized items.
- 4.2 All staff should be trained on the knowledge of appropriate seat allocation described in paragraph 3.

5 MANUALS

- 5.1 The AOC holder should establish procedures regarding the carry-on baggage policy in particular the carriage and stowage of oversized or odd-sized items and training for its staff. These procedures should be included in the operations manual.
- 5.2 The manual should cover all elements crucial to such application e.g. crew members' responsibility for verifying that the item is stowed and secured properly, item is not hindering passenger's view of the "Fasten Seat Belt" or "No-Smoking" signs, emergency exits signs etc.

6 CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The AOC holder should take the content of this AC into account when developing procedures and processes related to the carriage and stowage of oversized or odd-sized items as carry-on baggage on board the aircraft in the passenger cabin.

7 CONTACT INFORMATION

- 7.1 Should you have any queries relating to this subject, please contact CAAS at CAAS_AFO_Infocenter@caas.gov.sg.