

Baggage Acceptance Policy Q & A

Effective January 15, 2018:

What are “smart bags” and what do I need to know about them?

- Smart bags are items that include integrated lithium batteries or power banks, motors, powered locks, Wi-Fi technology, Bluetooth, and RFID and tracking devices (e.g., GPS, GSM). Smart bags are permitted to be transported as carryon baggage or checked baggage provided the integrated battery can be removed by the Customer. (see images below)
- The FAA and TSA do not regulate, approve, or endorse smart bags.
- **If the smart bag is in the cabin of the aircraft**, the removable battery may remain installed.
- If at any time a smart bag is checked, including at the gate, the Customer must remove the battery, and the removed battery must be protected from short circuit and carried in carryon baggage.
- **The smart bag’s battery must be removable** in the event that a Customer has to gate check the bag at another point during their journey.
- **If the battery cannot be removed, the smart bag cannot be transported.**
- It is the Customer’s responsibility to make arrangements if their smart bag cannot be accepted for travel. Employees may not accept these items from a Customer who wishes to discard them.

What are “PEDs” and what do I need to know about them?

- Portable electronic devices (PEDs) are any kind of electronic device brought onboard the aircraft by a Passenger, e.g., tablet, iPad, laptop computer, smartphone, e-reader, MP3 player.
- Customers may carry up to a maximum of 15 PEDs per person and maximum of 20 spare batteries per person in their carryon baggage.

What are “power banks” and what do I need to know about them?

- Power banks are compact portable supplemental batteries and may be transported by Customers in the cabin of aircraft on their person or in carryon baggage only.
- Power banks are considered spare or loose lithium-ion batteries and therefore must be transported in carryon baggage only.

Will there be any exceptions to the policy?

- No, Employees will not be able to make exceptions.

Why are we making this change?

- The policy changes are intended to mitigate risks associated with lithium batteries. If a fire occurs in the cargo bin of the aircraft, there is the potential the resulting conditions will exceed what the cargo bin was designed to manage. Should lithium battery fire or thermal runaway occur in the cabin, the cabin crew can expeditiously identify the incident, take appropriate firefighting action, and monitor the device for possible re-ignition.
- While this is not an FAA-mandated policy at this time, we believe that our policy change enhances the safety of our operation.

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What are the changes being made to the Special Luggage policies?

- One common lighter or one book of safety matches is permitted to be carried on the Customers person. Lighters and safety matches are prohibited in carryon bags and must never be placed in checked baggage.
- Each Customer is permitted up to a maximum of 15 PEDs and a maximum of 20 spare batteries per person.
- Power banks must be transported as carryon items only.
- Southwest Airlines will no longer accept smart bags (luggage) with non-removable (integrated) lithium batteries. The Customer must be able to easily remove the battery.

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Integrated Scale



Integrated Battery

Electronic Bag Tag



Motorized Baggage



Motorized Cooler



Collapsible Scooter