

**nj.com**

## **Feds ban e-cigarettes in checked bags on flights, citing fire hazard**

By Steve Strunsky | NJ Advance Media for NJ.com | [sstrunsky@njadvancemedia.com](mailto:sstrunsky@njadvancemedia.com)

Twitter-@stevestrunsky

October 26, 2015 at 5:58 PM at 6:21 PM

**NEWARK** — Citing the fire hazard they pose, the U.S. Department of Transportation banned transporting electronic cigarettes in checked bags on commercial flights.

"Transportation of battery-powered devices that are likely to create sparks or generate a dangerous evolution of heat is prohibited unless they are packaged in such a manner to preclude such an occurrence," the DOT [said in an announcement](#) Monday.

However, in an air safety twist, travelers are permitted to carry their e-cigarettes on board in their pocket or in carry-on bags, a rule that runs counter to some other prohibitions. For example, the Transportation Security Administration allows travelers to transport licensed firearms [in checked luggage](#), though not in carry-on bags.

In announcing the rule, the DOT cited a pair of incidents with the past 15 months in which e-cigarettes caused fires inside the bags where they had been packed: on Aug. 9, 2014, at Boston's Logan Airport, when an e-cigarette in a checked bag in a plane's cargo hold caused a fire that forced the plane's evacuation; and on Jan. 4 this year, at Los Angeles International Airport, when a checked bag caught fire in a baggage area.

"These incidents --and several others occurring outside of air transportation-- have shown that e-cigarettes can overheat and cause fires when the heating element is accidentally activated or left on." the DOT said.

The DOT said the rule was devised by two of its agencies, the Pipelines and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration and the Federal Aviation Administration, which issued [issued an interim final rule](#) following an advisory published earlier.

*Steve Strunsky may be reached at [sstrunsky@njadvancemedia.com](mailto:sstrunsky@njadvancemedia.com). Follow him on Twitter [@SteveStrunsky](#). Find [NJ.com](#) on Facebook.*

[http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2015/10/feds\\_ban\\_e-cigarettes\\_on\\_flights\\_citing\\_batteries.html](http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2015/10/feds_ban_e-cigarettes_on_flights_citing_batteries.html)