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DOT bans e-cigarettes in checked luggage

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Under a new federal rule announced Monday by the Department of Transportation, airline passengers and crewmembers will no longer be able to pack battery-powered portable electronic smoking devices such as e-cigarettes, e-cigars, e-pipes, personal vaporizers and any sort of electronic nicotine delivery system, in checked luggage.

“We know from recent incidents that e-cigarettes in checked bags can catch fire during transport,” Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx [said in statement](#) announcing the new federal rule. “Fire hazards in flight are particularly dangerous. Banning e-cigarettes from checked bags is a prudent safety measure.”

The DOT cites a [U.S. Fire Administration report](#) listing more than two dozen e-cigarette-related explosions and fires that have taken place since 2009, including some that involved e-cigarettes that were in checked luggage on airplanes.

[According to the DOT](#), on Aug. 9, 2014, at Boston's Logan Airport, an e-cigarette that was in a passenger's checked bag in the cargo hold of a passenger plane caused a fire that forced the evacuation of the aircraft. And on Jan. 4, 2015, at Los Angeles International Airport, a checked bag that arrived late and missed its connecting flight caught on fire when an e-cigarette inside the bag overheated.

Under the new rule, passengers may continue to put e-cigarettes in their carry-on bags (or in their pockets), but they cannot use the e-cigs or charge them during a flight.

Although the DOT has said in the past that [its rule](#) banning the smoking of tobacco products on passenger flights extends to electronic cigarettes, the DOT is now also proposing to amend the rule to name e-cigarettes in the ruling.

According to the [Associated Press](#), the ruling banning e-cigarettes

from checked luggage should go into effect within two weeks.

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<http://www.usatoday.com/story/travel/flights/todayinthesky/2015/10/27/electronic-cigarette-checked-luggage-ban/74670944/>