



Federal Aviation Administration
Office of Security and Hazardous Materials Safety
Dangerous Goods Advisory Bulletin

Information of Concern to Air Carriers and Airline Passengers

“Canned Oxygen” May Not Be Carried by Airline Passengers

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INFORMATION: The Federal Aviation Administration’s (FAA) Office of Hazardous Materials Safety (ADG-1) recently became aware that personal oxygen canisters are being marketed to airline passengers. Also called “canned oxygen,” “recreational oxygen,” and “flavored oxygen,” these products contain compressed oxygen in metal canisters and are being sold in airport shops, airport vending machines, specialty shops, hotels, ski resorts and online. Though these products may be marketed to help disembarking airline passengers recover from the effects of flying, their availability for purchase at airports may cause passengers to believe that they are allowed on commercial aircraft. These products are hazardous materials that are not allowed to be carried onto commercial aircraft by passengers or crewmembers.

Canned oxygen comes in a variety of brands and sizes, ranging from four to 22 ounces.



*Canned oxygen products like these may **not** be carried onboard commercial aircraft by passengers or crewmembers.*

Forbidden in aircraft cabin, carry-on baggage, and checked baggage

Canned recreational oxygen products are forbidden in the aircraft cabin (including carry-on baggage) and in checked baggage by the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Hazardous Materials Regulations, 49 CFR 171-180 (the HMR). Although the HMR contain exceptions allowing airline passengers and crew to carry a limited amount of hazardous materials that are medicinal/toiletry items (49 CFR 175.10), recreational oxygen does not qualify as an exception.

Further, FAA regulations stipulate that medical oxygen used by passengers during flight must be provided by the airline (14 CFR 121.574 and 135.91).

Available at some airports beyond the TSA screening checkpoint

Canned oxygen products have been seen in shops and/or vending machines at John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFK), LaGuardia Airport (LGA), and Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport (MSP). Some of these retail shops and vending machines are located beyond the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) screening checkpoints (within the sterile area of the airport). This gives the appearance that passengers may carry and use these recreational oxygen products on the aircraft—they may not.

Note: Neither FAA nor TSA regulations prohibit the use of personal oxygen equipment for medical purposes in airport gate areas when the oxygen is prescribed by a physician. However, passengers may not use this oxygen on the aircraft nor put it in carry-on or checked baggage. This oxygen equipment is typically left at the gate with an oxygen service or passenger escort.

Passengers needing oxygen during a flight

Passengers that require oxygen during a commercial flight have two options:

1. Contact the airline and arrange oxygen service via the airline (surcharges apply). Most U.S. airlines do not provide onboard oxygen service.
2. Passengers may carry an FAA-approved portable oxygen concentrator. These devices do not contain oxygen but concentrate it from the ambient air. Passengers should contact their airline for additional instructions for carrying portable oxygen concentrators.

For more information:

Additional information on hazardous materials carried by passengers may be found on the FAA “Pack Safe” web page: <http://www.faa.gov/go/PackSafe>

Contact information:

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