

PED Smoke or Fire Response Kit

It has been brought to IFALPA's attention that some airlines have been installing fireproof containment bags or boxes and/or fireproof gloves in the flight deck of their aircraft as part of their Dangerous Goods smoke or fire response kits to deal with Portable Electronic Device (PED) thermal runaways.

The Federation's main concern with the use of these items is the process of safely handling a reacting PED. Because Lithium battery thermal runaways tend to propagate from cell to cell, it is extremely dangerous to move these items before the device has cooled. It should be noted that cooling a reacting device with large amounts of water has been demonstrated to be very effective in controlling the propagation of the thermal runaway.

IFALPA is concerned with the safety risks involved in picking up and moving a device in thermal runaway into a bag or box, or to another location in the aircraft.

IFALPA therefore believes that the provision of such items is only appropriate if a safe method of transferring reacting devices has been demonstrated, if adequate procedures have been developed, and if appropriate training has been provided to all crew members.