

Airline Luggage Restrictions (25 September 2019)

You may have heard on the news that laptop computers are no longer allowed in checked-in luggage. We did too... but then we heard that the ban was only be for flights going into the US... and then later heard that the bans only applied to certain Apple Macs on Virgin Airlines.

Unfortunately, it is not possible for us to gather definitive advice as all airlines have their own rules and these are subject to change at any time. What we have determined is that there are 3 areas of concern regarding computers in **checked-in** luggage:

- Computers turning themselves on during flight and therefore potentially causing a fire in the hold.

This applies to computers that have been configured to automatically turn on if the lid is opened.

Teacher in a Box computers are NOT configured to act in this way, you have to physically press and hold the Off/On switch.

- Batteries not stored securely in their devices can short on a metal zip or something.

This is not a problem for Teacher in a Box as the batteries are safely secured within the laptop. If

you must transport loose batteries then ask the airlines for their packing advice and ensure you put them in cabin luggage.

- Potential theft or damage of the devices in checked-in luggage.

The risk is all yours, Airlines will take no responsibility

We can also advise that GENERALLY:

- laptop computers are not counted as part of your cabin luggage weight allowance
- there is usually a limit of about 15 PEDs (Personal Electronic Devices) per person and additional PEDs can usually be approved by the airline where necessary
- the Lithium-ion batteries in our laptops are less than 100Wh and therefore deemed safe for travel
- paying for plastic wrapping at the airport protects check-in luggage against wet weather and may also act as a deterrent to thieves

Planning Ahead

To ensure that you don't have any problems on your journey we suggest that you check out the Airline rules at the time of booking and then again before you fly. The following guide may assist you with starting your conversation with the airline and working out what questions you need to ask:

I will soon be flying with your airline to _____ and, from there I will be taking a connecting flight to _____ with _____ airline.

While on this trip I will be supporting a humanitarian Rotary service project by taking Teacher in a Box server(s) for deployment there.

Teacher in a Box servers are built on donated computers e.g. Dell, HP etc. (NOT Apple Macs) and provide schools with local access to a HUGE library of free quality educational resources without using the internet.

Optional Questions for your airline:

1. Are laptop computers allowed to be transported as checked-in baggage Yes/No?
2. What is the maximum number of laptop computers that could be transported this way?
3. Can laptop computers be taken as cabin luggage without counting towards the allowable weight limit. Yes/No?
4. What is the maximum number of laptop computers that could be transported in this way?
5. What about connector flights? Will the same rules apply there or will I have to contact each airline separately?

6. *Are there any restrictions to taking Tablets in checked-in luggage?*
7. *Can you advise of a better way of travelling with this equipment bearing in mind that the Rotary Teacher in a Box project is a registered charity under **ABN 53 268 109 005**?*

There may also be rules regarding taking electronic equipment into a country. Project managers should check this out.

Tips when planning a large deployment?

- Do your homework first.
 - Get the contacts on the ground.
 - Assess the interest in Teacher in a Box locally. Include a requirement that they must contribute, either financially or in some other way, to test their level of interest.
 - Use the Info gathering document to assess suitability of each proposed location
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- Find out which large companies are active in the region, especially if they have strong connections with Australia. It is possible that they may assist with transport, backup support and even funding
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