

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION
OPPOSITE SAFDERJUNG AIRPORT, NEW DELHI.**

No. 9/11/2010--IR

Dated: 15th October, 2010

CIRCULAR

Subject : Use of portable electronic devices board an aircraft.

Rule 29B of the Aircraft Rules, 1937 deals with the use of portable electronic device on board an aircraft in flight, as it may cause interference with the navigation or communication system of the aircraft. An aircraft is deemed to be in flight when all its external doors are closed following embarkation until any such door is opened for disembarkation.

2. There has been a demand from the travelling public that the use of mobile phones may be permitted in aircraft after landing during taxiing. The issue was examined and it emerged that after landing and during taxiing to the parking gate, the aircraft does not depend on any navigational aid operating on the same frequency as that of the portable electronic device or a frequency close to it. It was also observed that ground staff of various operators working at airports are allowed to use portable electronic device in the air side of the aerodromes without any problem. Based on this premise, several countries allow the use of mobile phones once the aircraft has landed and is taxiing to the gate.

3. In view of the above, rule 29B of the Aircraft Rules, 1937 has been amended vide GSR 726(E) dated 3^d September, 2010. The amended rule provides that the Pilot-in-Command may permit the use of cellular phones after the aircraft has landed and cleared active runway. However, this facility will not be available during low visibility conditions, as determined by the DGCA. A copy of rule 29B, as amended, is enclosed herewith.

4. All airlines are advised to modify the in-flight announcement accordingly and report compliance by 22 October, 2010 positively.

(K.P. MAGGON)
Dy. Director General
for Director General of Civil Aviation

To

All airlines operating to/from India

Rule 29B of the Aircraft Rules, 1937

29B. Prohibition on the use of portable electronic devices – No person shall operate, nor shall the operator or the pilot-in-command of an aircraft allow the operation of any portable electronic device on board an aircraft in flight:

Provided that the Pilot-in-Command may permit the use of cellular telephone by the passengers of a flight after the aircraft has landed and cleared active runway, except when the landing takes place in low visibility conditions as may be determined by the Director-General from time to time:

Provided further that the provisions of this rule shall not apply to portable voice recorders, hearing aids, heart pacemaker, electric shavers or other portable electronic devices which, in the opinion of the operator, do not cause interference with the navigation or communication system of the aircraft on which it is to be operated and for which such operator has obtained approval of the Director-General.

Explanation. For the purposes of this rule, an aircraft shall be deemed to be in flight when all its external doors are closed following embarkation until the moment when any such door is opened for disembarkation.

*(Inserted by GSR No. 400 dated 18-7-2001;
Amended by GSR No. 726(E) dated 3-09-3010)*