



TEAMSTERS Safety & Health FACTS

Safety and Health Department, International Brotherhood of Teamsters
25 Louisiana Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20001 ♦ 202/624-6960 ♦ ibtsafety@teamster.org

Medical Supplies Aboard Aircraft

ICAO Annex 6, Chapter 6, 6.2.2 a MEDICAL SUPPLIES

The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), a United Nations Group, defines the types, number, location, and contents of medical supplies that must be onboard airplanes.

1. Types

1.1 The different types of medical supplies should be provided as follows: first-aid kit(s) for carriage on all airplanes, universal precaution kit(s) for carriage on all airplanes that require a cabin crew member, and a medical kit for carriage where the airplane is authorized to carry more than 100 passengers on a sector length of more than two hours. Where national regulations allow it, operators may elect to carry the recommended medication in the first-aid kit.

1.2 Based on the limited available evidence, only a very small number of passengers are likely to benefit from the carriage of automated external defibrillators (AED) on airplanes. However, many operators carry them because they offer the only effective treatment for cardiac fibrillation. The likelihood of use, and therefore of potential benefit to a passenger, is greatest in aircraft carrying a large number of passengers, over long duration sector lengths. The carriage of AEDs should be determined by operators on the basis of a risk assessment taking into account the particular needs of the operation.

2. Number of first-aid and universal precaution kits

2.1 First-aid kits

The number of first-aid kits should be appropriate to the number of passengers which the airplane is authorized to carry:

| Passenger | First-aid kits |
|-----------|----------------|
| 0 – 100 | 1 |
| 101 – 200 | 2 |
| 201 – 300 | 3 |

| | |
|---------------|---|
| 301 – 400 | 4 |
| 401 – 500 | 5 |
| More than 500 | 6 |

2.2 Universal precaution kits

For routine operations, one or two universal precaution kits should be carried on aircraft that are required to operate with at least one cabin crew member. Additional kit(s) should be made available at times of increased public health risk, such as during an outbreak of a serious communicable disease having pandemic potential. Such kits may be used to clean up any potentially infectious body contents such as blood, urine, vomit and feces and to protect the cabin crew members who are assisting potentially infectious cases of suspected communicable disease.

3. Location

3.1 First-aid and universal precaution kits should be distributed as evenly as practicable throughout the passenger cabins. They should be readily accessible to cabin crew members.

3.2 The medical kit, when carried, should be stored in an appropriate secure location.

4. Contents

4.1 The following provides guidance on typical contents of first-aid, universal precaution and medical kits.

4.1.1 First-aid kit:

List of contents

- Antiseptic swabs (10/pack)
- Bandage: adhesive strips
- Bandage: gauze 7.5 cm × 4.5 m
- Bandage: triangular; safety pins
- Dressing: burn 10 cm × 10 cm
- Dressing: compress, sterile 7.5 cm × 12 cm
- Dressing: gauze, sterile 10.4 cm × 10.4 cm
- Tape: adhesive 2.5 cm (roll)
- Steri-strips (or equivalent adhesive strip)
- Hand cleanser or cleansing towelettes
- Pad with shield, or tape, for eye
- Scissors: 10 cm (if allowed by national regulations)
- Tape: Adhesive, surgical 1.2 cm × 4.6 m

- Tweezers: splinter
- Disposable gloves (multiple pairs)
- Thermometers (non-mercury)
- Mouth-to-mouth resuscitation mask with one-way valve
- First-aid manual, current edition
- Incident record form-4-

The following suggested medications can be included in the first-aid kits where permitted by national regulations:

- Mild to moderate analgesic
- Antiemetic
- Nasal decongestant
- Antacid
- Antihistamine

4.1.2 Universal precaution kit:

- Dry powder that can convert small liquid spill into a sterile granulated gel
- Germicidal disinfectant for surface cleaning
- Skin wipes
- Face/eye mask (separate or combined)
- Gloves (disposable)
- Protective apron

4.1.3 Medical kit:

- Equipment
- List of contents
- Stethoscope
- Sphygmomanometer (electronic preferred)
- Airways, oropharyngeal (three sizes)
- Syringes (appropriate range of sizes)
- Needles (appropriate range of sizes)
- Intravenous catheters (appropriate range of sizes)
- Antiseptic wipes
- Gloves (disposable)
- Needle disposal box
- Urinary catheter
- System for delivering intravenous fluids
- Venous tourniquet

- Sponge gauze
- Tape – adhesive
- Surgical mask
- Emergency tracheal catheter (or large gauge intravenous cannula)
- Umbilical cord clamp
- Thermometers (non-mercury)
- Basic life support cards
- Bag-valve mask
- Flashlight and batteries

Medication

- Epinephrine 1:1 000
- Antihistamine – injectable
- Dextrose 50% (or equivalent) – injectable: 50 ml
- Nitroglycerin tablets, or spray
- Major analgesic
- Sedative anticonvulsant – injectable
- Antiemetic – injectable
- Bronchial dilator – inhaler
- Atropine – injectable
- Adrenocortical steroid – injectable
- Diuretic – injectable
- Medication for postpartum bleeding
- Sodium chloride 0.9% (minimum 250 ml)
- Acetyl salicylic acid (aspirin) for oral use
- Oral beta blocker -5-

If a cardiac monitor is available (with or without an AED) add to the above list:

- Epinephrine 1:10 000 (can be a dilution of epinephrine 1:1 000)

Note: The United States Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulation regarding required medical supplies aboard aircraft can be found in 14 CFR Part 121 Annex A. While FAA regulations do not require infection control kits (universal precaution kits), the 2013 Memorandum of Understanding between FAA and OSHA requires airlines to comply with OSHA's Bloodborne Pathogen (BBP) standard. The BBP standard is found in 29 CFR 1910.1030 and prescribes specific PPE and housekeeping agents that must be provided to employees who are exposed to blood or other potentially infectious material (OPIM) as a part of routine duties or clean-up operations.

References:

1. International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Annex 6, Chapter 6, 6.2.2 a Attachment B
<http://www.icao.int/MID/Documents/2013/capscamid3/ICAOHealthRelatedSARPsandguidelines.pdf>
2. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) 14 CFR Part 121 Annex A, Emergency Medical Equipment http://www.faa.gov/documentLibrary/media/Advisory_Circular/AC121-33B.pdf
3. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Bloodborne Pathogen Standard https://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_id=10051&p_table=STANDARDS