

Use of Portable Electronic Devices Airside

1. Scope

A Portable Electronic Device (PED) is any piece of electronic equipment that is not connected to the mains, i.e. relies on batteries, and is capable of transmitting a signal that has the potential to interfere with any system on an aircraft or an area of the airport that performs a function critical to the safe operation of an aircraft.

The purpose of this procedure is to ensure that Cambridge Airport satisfies the duty of care to only allow people to use these devices when it will not affect the safety of an aircraft operating in and around the Cambridge Airport operational area.

A PED that transmits a signal that could affect aircraft systems does so when it is switched on, regardless of the perceived usage. As the device transmits the data to the receiving station the greater the distance between the device and the station the greater the required power to deliver the data; it is the amount of power used that can have a detrimental effect upon aircraft systems and therefore aircraft that are airborne or at airfields that are significantly far from the receiving station are at greater risk.

It should not be forgotten that all airside areas carry an inherent high risk due to the various operations that are constantly being carried out. This highlights the fact that at an airfield there is also a risk to pedestrian personnel whilst talking on a mobile or operating any other type of PED. Their awareness of surroundings and ability to react quickly in an emergency is greatly reduced.

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3. Process

PED's are:

1. To be switched off or in flight mode when operating within the proximity of operational safety critical equipment, i.e. AR15, ILS, VHF or UHF radio's
2. Not to be used in any vehicle whilst driving
3. To be switched off or in flight mode in the proximity of any refuelling vehicle or operation:
 - a. Within 50 feet of any pressurized aircraft fuel or oxygen service components
 - b. Within 25 feet of any aircraft fuel vent outlet during fuel transfer
 - c. Within 10 feet of any aircraft fuel vent outlet — unless the cell phone is intrinsically safe
4. To be switched off or in flight mode when in the proximity of aircraft under power, internal or external unless necessary for the operation of the aircraft