



## Information Brief on Wireless Device Use on Aircraft

*The GSM Association (GSMA) recommends that passengers always follow airline safety instructions. Radio transmissions in aircraft need to be controlled to prevent potential interference with aircraft systems and ground-based radio systems. It is standard practice on aircraft to turn off electrical devices during critical parts of the flight. When switched on, mobile phones may transmit even when not in active use and therefore airlines may require passengers to switch them off during the flight.*

### Radio transmitters and aircraft systems

It is standard practice on aircraft to turn off all types of radio transmitters and certain other electrical devices such as CD players during flight. Government communications authorities have noted that when airborne, the radio signals from mobile phones can travel for hundreds of kilometres and this could interfere with the operation of ground based phones.

Therefore we recommend that you obey the airline's instructions to switch off your mobile phone during flight.

Some airlines permit the use of mobile phones while the aircraft is stationary on the ground. Please follow the instructions of airline staff.

### Wireless Devices on Aircraft

There are devices, such as wireless PC data cards or computers with integrated wireless technology, that provide voice and data communications while travelling. These devices may use radio transmitters based on mobile phone and/or Wireless Local Area Network (W-LAN) technologies. If the airline permits the use of specific technologies, the GSMA recommends that passengers refer to the manufacturer's device instructions to activate only the permitted radio transmissions.





## GSM Association Recommendations

The GSMA recommends that passengers comply with the instruction to “switch off your mobile phone” and the device instructions may describe several options:

- Switch off

*For battery-operated devices, such as a mobile phone, these may be independently switched off. Where a wireless device, such as a PC data card, is connected to a host computer or personal digital assistant (PDA), it draws its power from the host system. When the host is completely switched off, the power to the wireless device is removed.*

- Remove from host

*When a wireless device without a battery is physically removed from the host, it cannot operate and remains a passive piece of electronics.*

- Use Flight mode

*A “Flight mode” may be available for some wireless devices. When engaged this is intended to switch off the device’s radio transmitter while still allowing use of other functions - e.g. games. In the absence of “Flight mode,” or when instructed otherwise, options 1 or 2 above are always available to the passenger.*

### Disclaimer

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GSMA London Office: 1st Floor, Mid City Place, 71 High Holborn, London WC1V 6EA, United Kingdom • T +44 (0) 20 7759 2300

GSMA Dublin Office: Block 2, Deansgrange Business Park, Deansgrange, Co. Dublin, Ireland • T +353 (0) 1 289 1800

[www.gsmworld.com](http://www.gsmworld.com)