

IMPORTANT NEW TRAVEL ALERT!

FAA Bans Recalled MacBook Pros from All Flights



What you need to know...

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is explicitly banning certain MacBook Pro models on flights (both as cargo or carry-ons) because of faulty lithium batteries that pose a fire risk. Banned models include 15-inch MacBook Pros sold between September, 2015 and February, 2017.

The mandate is not unlike the FAA's ban of the infamous Samsung Galaxy Note 7 phone. Unlike Samsung's Note 7, however, which had distinct design characteristics to set it apart from other phones, there's no easy way to tell at a glance *which* MacBook Pros should be stopped: a 15-inch 2015 MacBook Pro that has a problematic recalled lithium battery looks just like a 15-inch 2015, 2016 or 2017 model that doesn't.



It's not immediately known how many MacBook Pros will be affected by the ban. About 432,000 MacBook Pros with faulty batteries were sold in the U.S., while an additional 26,000 were sold in Canada.

Some international carriers also have banned MacBook Pros. Four airlines with cargo operations managed by Total Cargo Expertise—TUI Group Airlines, Thomas Cook Airlines, Air Italy and Air Transat—have likewise recently barred these laptops from flying as cargo.

Actual enforcement of the FAA ban will inevitably prove problematic, since the only means of identifying affected MacBook Pros is through the device's serial number. Because of this, Bloomberg reports, "It's unclear what efforts will, if any, be made at U.S. airports." *That said, arbitrary confiscation of all MacBook Pros remains a possibility unless travelers can provide verification that their laptop is not among the affected units.*

To ensure that you travel safely and that your laptop is not arbitrarily confiscated, Direct Travel advises you to visit **Apple's recall page** (please see link below) and enter your unit's serial number (found by clicking the small Apple logo in the upper-left corner of the menu bar and then clicking "About This Mac"). <https://support.apple.com/15-inch-macbook-pro-battery-recall> ***If your unit is not at issue, Direct Travel advises you to print and take validation from the Apple website to the airport with your laptop!***

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