



## Compass

# Delta and JetBlue are first to announce approval for new gadget rules

By [Bekah Wright](#)

November 1, 2013 5:51 PM

[Compass](#)



*A JetBlue Airways passenger looks at his cell phone. Soon, passengers will be able to keep phones on throughout ...*

If you're flying Delta or JetBlue this weekend, it looks like you're all clear to use your tablets and smartphones during takeoff and landing. The airlines were the first to announce Friday afternoon that their plans to adopt the new FAA rules on personal electronic devices were approved, and they say they will implement the plan immediately.

When it announced pending changes last month, the [FAA estimated that they wouldn't take effect until early next year](#), since each airline had to test its fleet for electronic-signal tolerance and come up with a plan for implementing the new policies.

But several air carriers — members of the Aviation Rulemaking Committee that approved the change — got a jump on the competition and submitted their plans as soon as the new rules were announced. JetBlue and Delta were among them. “JetBlue will allow the use of PEDs as quickly as we receive approval from the FAA, which can be as early as this afternoon,” spokesperson Tamara Young said in an interview with Yahoo Travel on Thursday shortly after the FAA's announcement.

Getting the green light involves clearance from the FAA, which worked with a cross-industry panel of experts on the rule-making committee to recommend a certification path that will maintain airline safety. FAA spokesperson Kristie Greco told Yahoo Travel, “We wanted to include all voices in this review, so the ARC was composed of passenger-rights groups, electronics manufacturers, airlines, flight attendants and pilots.” Also on the committee were representatives from the technology industry, including Garmin and Amazon. The former policy required passengers to turn off most devices during takeoffs and landings over concern that interference from their signals could affect airplane equipment. But soon, you'll be able to keep them on, gate to gate, in airplane mode.

## Featured Galleries



## Featured Articles



This is good news for passengers like actor Alec Baldwin, who was kicked off a flight in December 2011 for refusing to turn off his phone while his plane was at the gate. At the time, Baldwin took to Twitter to complain: "Flight attendant on American reamed me out 4 playing Words With Friends while we sat at the gate, not moving." According to [Marketwatch](#), he later described the airline as a place "where retired Catholic school gym teachers from the 1950s find jobs as flight attendants."



*FAA Administrator Michael Huerta talks about the use of portable electronic devices on aircraft during a news conference ...*

There are caveats to today's protocol change: Devices must stay in airplane mode, and voice calls cannot be made on cell phones while planes are in the air because Federal Communications Commission regulations prohibit any airborne calls using cell phones. You might still have to turn electronics off entirely under certain circumstances such as emergency landings or low visibility. [The agency's website includes detailed guidelines for passengers.](#)

Travelers' reactions vary. Some are glad for the extra entertainment that could make a potentially boring or stressful flight more bearable. Others wonder if devices could distract fellow passengers at times when they should be paying preparing for a flight or paying attention to crew instructions.

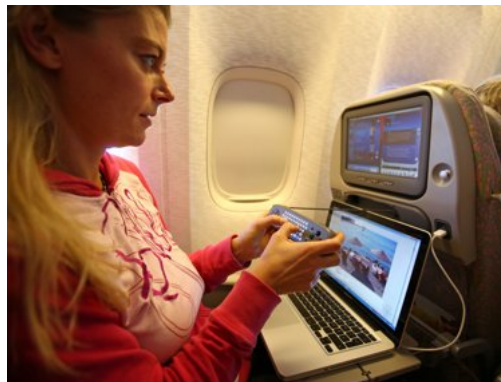
On Yahoo Travel's Facebook page, Kathrine Hill of St. Paul, Minn., said she is hoping for the best. "There is enough delay getting people seated now ... I will withhold judgement until I fly with these new rules. We have such a lack of 'situational awareness' of the immediate world around us now, even on planes," she wrote.

#### **One airline at a time**

When will all airlines be onboard with the new policy? According to the FAA's website, "The process will vary among airlines, but the agency expects airlines to allow passengers to safely use their devices in airplane mode, gate-to-gate, by the end of 2013."

FAA spokeswoman Greco added, "The FAA has already received plans from some airlines to expand the use of portable electronic devices on planes. The agency is reviewing the plans to make sure they conform to the guidance we released a few hours ago. Depending on the condition of the plan, we could approve expanded use of electronic devices very soon."

Most airlines have issued statements giving their passengers a heads-up. United Airlines' says, "We already started work to implement this as safely and quickly as possible, and are excited to offer this new benefit because our customers tell us they want to use their portable electronic devices."



*Many passengers use more than one electronic device during flights. (Photo by EyesWideOpen/Getty Images)*

According to a press release, American Airlines planned to submit its details to the FAA on Friday. "American has been working with the FAA for some time on this initiative and we are excited to bring this improved level of service to our customers. American is working closely with our regional partners to bring the same level of portable device access to regional customers by the end of the year."

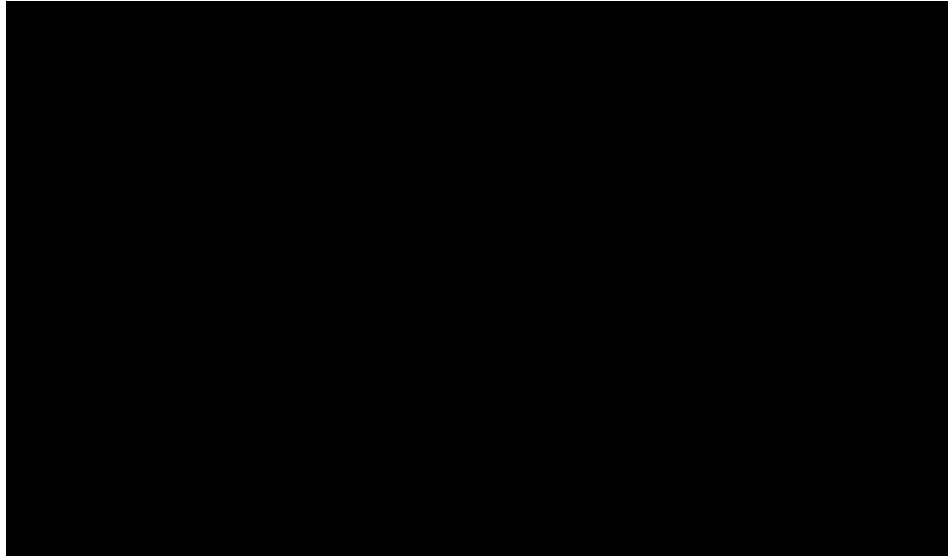
Airlines that weren't part of the ARC are hoping to submit their plans to the FAA in short order. "We plan to offer our customers the added convenience of using electronic devices onboard. The when part is the trickier answer," Brandy King, a spokesperson for Southwest Airlines, told Yahoo Travel. "Today is the first day we've had exposure to the change and seen what work needs to be done in order to submit to the FAA for approval. It will take us time to get that together."

Alaska Airlines is also looking to submit as soon as possible. Spokesman Paul McElroy told Yahoo Travel that

the airline has a list of things to accomplish: “Just a few changes that need to take place include updating pilot and flight attendant manuals, seatback emergency cards, information about PEDs at the back of our in-flight magazine, PA announcements and safety briefings our flight attendants make.” Some things he says will come into consideration: “which devices must be stowed during takeoff and landing, and which smaller ones can be held or put in seatback pocket.”

Once airlines get these issues ironed out, the FAA has to approve all policies and procedures. “We’re working on it as fast as we can,” McElroy said. “We can’t wait to allow our passengers more flexibility in their use of PEDs.”

Alec Baldwin, you will soon be free to play Words With Friends — without interruption.



[View Comments \(148\)](#)

Share this

<http://travel.yahoo.com/blogs/compass/expect-faa-electronics-rules-002223019.h>



#### Recommended for You

##### [A different kind of robot dance: Flickr photo of the day](#)

The Japanese do love their robots. This well-camouflaged person is, ahem ... adjusting a giant robot nightclub dancer. Yep, and for 50 bucks you can watch her “dance.” Somehow, during a time when almost everyone (well, 99 percent of us) is concerned about money, a Japanese entrepreneur

[Compass](#)

##### [Find Your High School Yearbooks](#)

AdChoices

View class yearbooks online free. Reminisce & buy a reprint today.

[Classmates.com](#) Sponsored

##### [Rhine River cruise on a new boat leads to Christmas markets, heritage sites](#)

Though most people think of cruises as large apartment-like ships navigating through tropical waters, there’s another form of cruise distinctive in its own right: a longship river cruise. With their smaller vessels, river cruises are more intimate and can get you closer to the areas you’re...

[Compass](#)

##### [Dec. 9, 1531: Lady of Guadalupe appears to Juan Diego, leading to Mexico City shrine](#)

The Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe, in a northern neighborhood of Mexico City, is the world’s most visited shrine to the Virgin Mary. The spot has been a major pilgrimage site for Catholics since

[Compass](#)

##### [Daniel Boulud’s Beijing Outpost Now Closed](#)

Daniel Boulud’s Beijing outpost Maison Boulud served its last brunch — and also its last-ever meal &m

[The Daily Meal](#)

##### [10 Asian Dishes You Have Never Heard Of](#)

Move over chow mein, banh mi, and dumplings.

[The Daily Meal](#)

### Retrace Nelson Mandela's legacy at these South African sites

To better understand the scope of Nelson Mandela's legacy in South Africa, the country's tourism office has released a list of attractions that traces his life as a political prisoner, husband, father and anti-apartheid crusader. Here are a few major landmarks connected to the revolutionary...

[AFP Relax News](#)

### Top ski resorts for budgets and families

After looking at the cost of hitting the slopes across 30 resorts in Europe and North America, a newly released report found that Bulgaria offers the most affordable skiing this winter.

[AFP Relax News](#)

### Most affordable ski destinations: UK report

A wide sweeping report out of the UK has pegged the slopes of Bulgaria as the most affordable place to take the family skiing.

[AFP Relax News](#)

### Phoenix's Most Amazing Hotel Pools

Ready to escape the snow and ice? These desert oases offer plenty of sunshine and splashin' fun.

[Minitime](#)

### Virginia Wine Shines at Wine Summit

Although California is thought of as the star of this county's wine scene, Virginia has managed to carve out its own niche.

[The Daily Meal](#)

### Manitou Cliff Dwellings — the real deal or really fake?

They're the ancient ruins of an indigenous people. Or it's a tourist trap that's fake, fake, fake. The Manitou Cliff Dwellings have certainly stirred up debate on the Web. The truth lies somewhere in between, but we'll get to that in a moment. The roadside attraction near Colorado Springs,...

[Compass](#)

### Sacred tourist site: Flickr photo of the day

Muslims are called to prayer five times each day and no matter where, they turn toward Mecca, kneel and pray. In cities throughout the world the Adhan (call to worship) can be heard coming from loudspeakers at local mosques. Few mosques anywhere, however, are more beautiful than the Sheikh


[Compass](#)

### Dec. 6, 1897: London first licenses motorized taxis

London's black cabs are some of the city's most beloved icons, and for good reason. Drivers are required to pass a test showing they know the locations of not just streets but also hospitals, parks, theaters and other landmarks throughout the city — studying for it typically takes three years....

[Compass](#)

### Mortgage Rates Hit 2.63% (2.82% APR)

AdChoices 

Mortgage rates are back down this month to 2.63% (2.82% APR). Get a great rate and start saving money today. Calculate your payment.

[LendingTree](#) Sponsored

### Michael Mina to Spearhead Restaurant in New 49ers Stadium

It's no surprise that Michael Mina will be spearheading the state-of-the-art restaurant within the new 49ers stadium coming in August 2014.

[The Daily Meal](#)

### Holiday Trip Tips: Hot Chocolate & Ice-Skating in San Diego

Kimpton's Hotel Solamar in San Diego, Calif., has launched a new urban skating package called "Fall on Your Ice." Valid for stays from Dec.

[The Daily Meal](#)

### 8 Hotels with Free Minibars

Late-night cravings that cause you to reach for a snack in the hotel minibar can be real money traps.

[The Daily Meal](#)

### Ziplining takes winery tours to new heights

Wine lovers who also happen to be adrenaline junkies are being courted in an emerging trend with ziplining tours that soar above vineyard canopies. There is a disclaimer, however: don't drink and zip.

[AFP Relax News](#)

### **Saudi Arabia now open to foreigners**

Saudi Arabia launched a new tourist visa program this week that allows foreigners to visit the kingdom's tourist and historical sites. Announced out of the Saudi Commission for Tourism and Antiquities earlier this year, visitors are now able to apply for a tourist visa under the Extended Umrah...

[AFP Relax News](#)

### **Hotel prices rise in Prague and Vienna before Christmas**

The daily rate for a standard double room saw a decline in October and it has continued to drop in most of the 16 major European cities analyzed as part of the the latest Trivago-Relaxnews hotel price index – with the exception of Prague and Vienna, where Christmas fairs prove popular destinations.

[AFP Relax News](#)

### **Japan agency offers travel for your teddy bear**

Then Japan has just the thing for you -- a travel agency that takes stuffed toys on package tours and even provides the holiday snaps to prove it. The more adventurous bear might like to see some of the grand temples and shrines of the ancient capital of Kyoto for \$95, or unwind in the hot spring...

[AFP Relax News](#)

[Load more stories](#)