



FAX: (255 22) 2124914, 2118905  
PHONE: (255 22) 2115079/80, 2111951.  
AFS: HTDQYOYO  
Email: [tcaa@tcaa.go.tz](mailto:tcaa@tcaa.go.tz), [ais@tcaa.go.tz](mailto:ais@tcaa.go.tz)  
Website: [www.tcaa.go.tz](http://www.tcaa.go.tz)

**UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA**  
**TANZANIA CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY**  
Aeronautical Information Services  
P.O. Box 2819, DAR ES SALAAM  
Tetex House, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Pamba Road

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The following circular is hereby promulgated for information, guidance and necessary action

*Margaret T. Munyagi*  
**Director General**

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### **USE OF PORTABLE TELEPHONES IN AIRCRAFT**

1. Portable telephones are now in common use in everyday life throughout the world. These telephones are available in a variety of sizes. However, even the smaller units contain a relatively powerful transmitter to carry the voice signal from the handset to the nearest base station. Even in the 'standby' mode, portable telephones periodically transmit.
2. The techniques adopted were designed and engineered for use on the ground. Any attempted use in aircraft in flight could cause disruption and degradation of the cellular system or the disconnection of other users. In addition, such transmission may cause interference with the aircraft's own systems with an adverse effect on safety and contravention of the Civil Aviation (Operation of Aircraft) Regulations, 2006.
3. Air Operators should implement procedures to ensure that all portable telephones are switched off prior to aircraft engine start on departure and remain switched off until the engines are shut down after arrival. Operators should ensure that check-in and ground handling staff as well as flight and cabin crews are made aware of this restriction. Operational procedures should include the necessary announcements to passengers, both before and after boarding the aircraft.

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