

Carriage of Models on Airliners

Dear FAI Members, Dear CIAM Delegates,

We understand that some competitors flying to FAI sporting events are continuing to have difficulties in carrying model aircraft and associated equipment with them as baggage on airliners.

Airline and airport staff take decisions at local level on what to allow on board aircraft, regardless of what IATA and ICAO regulations may say. Very often commercial considerations lie behind rules that are presented as being for “safety and security”. It is therefore important that anyone who wishes to carry boxes containing model aircraft as airline baggage should contact their airline in advance to find out what the airline’s policy is, and to obtain the necessary authorisations. It is also clearly the responsibility of those travelling to ensure that their baggage contains no items classified as “dangerous cargo” (including fuel).

The attached letter may be of some help to competitors. NACs and delegated national aeromodelling authorities may wish to issue it to their international competitors. The procedure for obtaining the signed letters is as follows:

1. For each competitor and for each international competition in which he or she is intending to fly, please create a Word file with the blanks filled in (a .pdf document for a fictitious competitor - A.N. Other - is enclosed showing how a completed document will look.)
2. These files should be sent to the FAI Secretariat at the following address: info@fai.org . Only the following authorities may make requests for these letters:
 - FAI Member organisations (NACs)
 - National aeromodelling associations to which the NAC has duly delegated sporting powers
 - Approved CIAM delegates and alternate delegates
3. The FAI Secretariat will print the letter out on FAI headed paper and have it signed and stamped.
4. Your requests should clearly indicate the postal and email addresses to which the signed letters should be sent. We regret that, because of the workload involved, we cannot normally send letters out to individual competitors. Internal distribution to competitors within each country remains the responsibility of the national authorities.
5. The FAI Secretariat will normally process the requests for letters within 5 working days. However, given postal and other delays, we strongly recommend that requests for these letters are sent at least one month in advance. **WE WILL NOT GIVE PRIORITY TO LAST-MINUTE REQUESTS.**

Finally, we would like to emphasize that possession of this letter is not a guarantee that a competitor will be able to take models on board aircraft as airline baggage. The letter is merely an additional way of helping competitors to persuade local staff to act reasonably. We hope that it will prove to be of some use.

With best regards,

Max Bishop
Secretary General

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