

Thank you for allowing me to comment on this proposal.

I am on oxygen 24/7 for Interstitial Lung Disease and would LOVE to be able to use commercial airlines. However, I do NOT want to risk the lives of every other person on board.

That's all we need ... folks carrying potential BOMBS onto airliners, that some NUT could grab hold of and threaten the entire aircraft with! I don't think so.

Liquid Oxygen (used by some of the the portable units mentioned) is what NASA uses to launch rockets into space, like the Space Shuttle! Liquid oxygen units must also be kept in an upright position or their contents "spill out". And all it takes to set it off is a single spark, not even a flame (match, lighter, etc.). A spark can be created by lots of materials allowed onto aircraft, like a simple hair comb and nylon material (static discharge).

I doubt that our new Department of Homeland Security will allow this regulation to pass in any way, shape or form. If they do, they don't understand the danger. This potential threat is probably why many airlines have STOPPED providing "supplemental oxygen" (individual canisters) to passengers. It's just simply too dangerous. You can't use a wheel chair or seeing-eye dog as a bomb <smile>, but you certainly CAN use stored oxygen.

The ONLY thing that should be allowed on airlines is non-stored oxygen, which is what an oxygen concentrator provides. It takes room air, purifies it and processes it into near pure oxygen, then sends it out the tube. It does NOT "store" any oxygen that could potentially be used as a bomb. However, installing a concentrator on every single aircraft, WITH a heat sensor on every outgoing tube, that would turn OFF the supply to that tube in a millisecond (if someone tries to use it as a bomb), and is capable of supplying the needs of X number of passengers all at the same time, would be VERY expensive.

Currently, I believe there is only one manufacturer who makes a "portable" concentrator, and it costs thousands of dollars ... which most disabled folks or those living on Social Security, cannot afford, and insurance companies will not pay for ... yet. To be used on airlines, it would need to have an automatic shut-off system installed INSIDE the unit (so it is tamper proof) that would shut off the unit in case of external ignition (someone trying to use it as a bomb). Don't know if such a thing exists or if it's even possible to make.

If this regulation DOES pass, the passengers will need to be notified by the airline as to the cabin pressure that will be used so the passenger can increase their flow rate of oxygen. For example, if a person lives at sea level and will be flying on an aircraft that pressurizes the cabin to an altitude of 8,000 feet, the passenger may need to increase their oxygen flow rate by 1 or 2 litres per minute (LPM). This determination should be made by a doctor, and not by the individual themselves.

Please keep air travel SAFE, for those who ARE able to travel via airlines, and do NOT allow carry-on oxygen unless it is tamper-proof and cannot be used as a bomb.

-Don
Colorado