

## **Standard Operating Procedures for NIFC Large Transport Aircraft**

---

The Mobilization Center Manager coordinates with ramp personnel, large transport aircraft pilot and flight crew to organize the loading and unloading of cargo and passengers in a safe, controlled, and organized manner.

The crews will be weighted and manifested on the day of the flight to mitigate the possibility of incorrect weights for gear.

The Crewboss or chief-of-party is briefed on prohibited items and instructed to personally verify those items are not present. Crewboss or chief-of-party then signs the Special Charters form certifying there are no prohibited items present.

The completed documentation is then given to the pilot to determine the weight and balance for the aircraft. The mobilization center manager is told how the pilot wants the plane loaded.

The Mobilization Center staff and ramp personnel oversee the loading of the aircraft.

### **Passengers**

The standard Large Transport Aircraft is contracted to transport 120 passengers. If a crew has more or less than 20 persons, the sending unit must ensure this is communicated to the Large Transport Coordinator.

### **Weight Limits**

Weight limits established in the National Interagency Mobilization Guide will be followed.

Each person is allowed two (2) bags totaling 65 pounds. One frameless, soft pack, not to exceed 45 pounds and web gear or briefcase (not both), not to exceed 20 pounds.

The maximum a single crew can weight is 5300 pounds (6,625 pounds for 25 person crews). This includes personnel, personal gear, and crew gear.

Pre-identified Type 1 Incident Management Team members are authorized additional weight, not to exceed 300 pounds, for equipment per team. Additional weight from team gear may result in fewer people because the contract for the aircraft based off five (5) crews weighing 5300 pounds.

#### **2022 National Interagency Mobilization Guide**

##### **Chapter 10**

##### ***Standard Cubes, Weight, and Gear Policy for all Personnel***

*All personnel dispatched off their unit must conform to the following limitations:*

- *One frameless, soft pack, not to exceed 45 pounds.*
- *Web gear or briefcase (not both), not to exceed 20 pounds.*
- *Maximum allowable crew weight, including equipment, is 5,300 pounds (6,625 pounds for 25 person crews).*

- *All personnel baggage weights must be displayed separately from individual weights on flight manifests.*
- *Pre-identified Type 1 Incident Management Team members are authorized additional weight, not to exceed 300 pounds, for equipment per team. The Incident Commander must designate, in advance, which team members are authorized additional weight and make this a matter of record.*
- *Excluding Smokejumpers, Rappellers, and Helicopter Managers.*

## **Weighing and Manifesting**

Crews are manifested using the SF-245 using certified scales.

The Crewboss or Chief of party must verify the manifest names are accurate.

Individuals and their gear are weighed separately in the order that is shown on the manifest.

## **Chainsaws**

To prepare a chain saw for flight; the chainsaw fuel tank must be dry purged, the bar oil reservoir emptied, and the saw must be packaged in a clean container or saw bag that will protect the aircraft and other cargo from being damaged by the saw. Mobilization center personnel will verify the saws are prepared for flight when they are manifested.

### ***49 CFR 175.10 - Exceptions for passengers, crewmembers, and air operators.***

*(a) (22) An internal combustion or fuel cell engine or a machine or apparatus containing an internal combustion or fuel cell engine when carried as checked baggage, provided -*

*(i) The engine contains no liquid or gaseous fuel. An engine may be considered as not containing fuel when the engine components and any fuel lines have been completely drained, sufficiently cleaned of residue, and purged of vapors to remove any potential hazard and the engine when held in any orientation will not release any liquid fuel;*

*(ii) The fuel tank contains no liquid or gaseous fuel. A fuel tank may be considered as not containing fuel when the fuel tank and the fuel lines have been completely drained, sufficiently cleaned of residue, and purged of vapors to remove any potential hazard;*

*(iii) It is not equipped with a wet battery (including a non-spillable battery), a sodium battery or a lithium battery; and*

*(iv) It contains no other hazardous materials subject to the requirements of this subchapter.*

Fuel containers including dolmars and Sigg bottles will not be transported unless they are in new, unfilled condition.

## **Prohibited and Non-Prohibited Items**

---

### **The following items may be transported in the passenger compartment:**

- Handheld radio – battery must be disconnected
- Lighter or book matches (no Zippo lighters or strike anywhere matches) - must be in passenger compartment
- Vaping devices - must be in passenger compartment
- Laptop computer
- Laptop computer batteries (including lithium and ion) – must be in passenger compartment

### **The following items may be transported in the cargo compartment:**

- Handheld radio – battery must be disconnected
- Laptop computer – no battery
- Knives and multi-tools
- Hand tools
- Chain saws
- Firequick flare launcher (pistol) – No flares or loads
- Batteries (no lithium or ion)

### **The following items cannot be transported on the aircraft:**

- Liquid fuel – gasoline, diesel, Zippo fuel
- Fusees or Firequick Flares – no firing device of any kind
- Bear Spray or self-defense spray
- Galaxy Note 7 cellular phones
- Oxygen tank – no compressed gas tank of any kind

## Instructions for crews and individuals being transported on the NIFC contract aircraft

---

It is the responsibility of the crewboss or chief of party to verify the following prior to arrival at the mobilization center; the names on the manifest are accurate, crew members have only 2 bags with a combined weight of 65 pounds, the total weight does not exceed 5300 pounds, and crew members are not transporting any firing devices (fuses or flares) or other prohibited items.

The crewboss or chief of party should contact the mobilization center directly for specific reporting times and instructions. Plan to arrive at the mobilization center 3 hours before take-off time (2 hours before Ready-To-Load time).

Long term parking is limited at the NIFC Mobilization Center and on the NIFC campus. Please contact the mobilization center directly to verify parking for your vehicles.

The NIFC (National Interagency Fire Center) Mobilization Center is located in a fenced area on the NIFC campus near the main entrance before entering the NIFC main security gate.

**Phone number:** (208) 387-5010  
After about 10 rings the call will transfer to the on-call Mobilization Center Manager's cell phone.

**Fax number:** (208) 387-5012

**Mailing address is:**  
3833 South Development Ave  
Boise, Idaho 83705-5354

**Physical address for driving directions is:**  
3800 Vista Avenue  
Boise, Idaho, 83705

