

Samsung Notebook7 phones banned from Vanuatu air flights

□ From Front Page

He said the ban on the Samsung Galaxy s7 applies to all Air Vanuatu flights on both domestic and international routes.

"All passengers who purchase an Air Vanuatu ticket, whether locally or overseas are informed of the ban to make sure they comply. In addition, we check all passengers' check-in and carry-on luggage for the device to make sure we comply with the ban and the device is not carried on board our flights."

Although airlines are adhering to the ban, it is important that retailers are also made aware of this ban on the device on flights for security concerns, as it is reported that some shops in Vanuatu are selling the device to tourists and also locals. One

woman said she had to refund her relative's money for the phone she purchased from Au Bon Marche Nambatu in Port Vila to take back with her to New Caledonia, but was told at Bauerfield Airport the device was not allowed on the Air Calin flight.

Asked when the CAAV order came into effect, Director Joseph Niel said they started confiscating the smartphone from passengers already last year.

The cutting-edge smartphones have also been banned from checked-in baggage, following a number of spontaneous explosions as a result of the battery issues, the US Federal Aviation Administration has claimed.

The FAA said it "strongly advises" passengers to follow its guidance "in light of recent incidents and concerns raised

by Samsung about its Galaxy Note 7 devices."

Australian airlines Qantas, Jetstar and Virgin Australia have already banned passengers from using or recharging the Samsung Galaxy Note 7 during flights over fire concerns.

A spokesperson for Samsung told Express.co.uk, "Samsung is committed to producing the highest quality products and we take every incident report from our valued customers very seriously.

"In response to recently reported cases of the new Galaxy Note7, we conducted a thorough investigation and found a battery cell issue.

"However, because our customers' safety is an absolute priority at Samsung, we have stopped sales of the Galaxy Note7."



A photo of a Samsung Galaxy s7 smartphone that caught fire. (Photo: Web supplied)