

To the FCC

Re: Proceeding #13-301

I would like the FCC to reconsider allowing the use of cell phone voice calling on aircraft in flight. I strongly oppose the FCC allowing the use of cell phone voice calling on aircraft in flight, except in emergency situations. As a frequent flier who often has to either catch up on work or sleep on a flight, I am very, very concerned that voice calls might be allowed. It is bad enough in the very small, closed in space to have a little kid crying or people who are partially deaf talking somewhere near the top of their lungs. At least those issues are not usually overwhelming, not all that frequent, and the kids go to sleep sooner or later. But voice calls – they could go on for the whole duration of the flight, and just imagine even one person per row on the phone! Even when people try to talk quietly on mobile phones, they speak more loudly than they expect, and on a plane people would talk even louder to compensate for background noise. In a small plane of 26 rows - that would make 26 on-going one-sided conversations echoing around a space almost designed to echo sound. Not only would sleep not be possible, and work nearly impossible, but sanity would be stretched to its limit. Rudeness on flights, passenger irritation, and frustration with a stressful environment already exists and would be so much worse if voice calls were allowed on flights. Loud mobile phone conversations could dramatically increase the prevalence of "air rage," endangering the lives of passengers and crew, and likely will make the crew even ruder (then some of them already are).

SMS texting and Internet connectivity are both excellent ways for fliers to stay entertained and in touch with their friends, family and work contacts on the ground. For safety's sake, the FCC should approve SMS and data use but please, please, please prohibit voice calls except in emergencies.

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