

To the FCC

Re: Allowing Cell Phone Voice Calls on aircraft

I oppose the FCC allowing the use of cell phone voice calling on aircraft in flight, except in emergency situations. This isn't just an issue of comfort or courtesy, it's one of safety. In cramped airline cabins, passions already run high. Even when people try to talk quietly on mobile phones, they speak more loudly than they expect because of a lack of sidetone and overcompensation for background noise. Loud mobile phone conversations could dramatically increase the prevalence of "air rage," endangering the lives of passengers and crew.

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 prohibit voice calls except in emergencies.

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