

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

Office of Aviation Safety
Washington, D.C. 20594

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**Attachment 13 – American Airlines Weight and Balance
Control Manual [Excerpts]**

OPERATIONAL FACTORS/HUMAN PERFORMANCE

DCA19LA134

American Airlines

Weight and Balance Control Manual (WBCM)

Revision 41

Operations Engineering
12/18/2018

8 Passenger Weights

8.1 Overview

American Airlines uses Standard Average passenger weights for all scheduled revenue flights. For special charter flights passenger weights are defined using applicable provisions in Section 8.3.

The Standard Average passenger weight includes 16 pounds of carry-on baggage (1 carry-on bag and 1 personal item) per passenger [as specified in Section 11.13. This carry-on weight assumption is applied equally to all adult and children boarding the aircraft. The complete](#) American Airlines' approved Carry-on Baggage program is described in Section 11 of this manual. It is a separate program maintained by Airport Services and approved through the Principal Operations Inspector's (POI) office.

For those operations where carry-on baggage is moved from the passenger cabin to the cargo compartment, the Standard Average passenger weight is not adjusted. The [relocated](#) baggage for weight and balance purposes is then treated as a checked bag. [AA has no reciprocal policy to relocate checked bags from the cargo compartment to the passenger cabin.](#)

8.2 Standard Average Passenger and Carry-on Weights

The following Standard Average passenger weights are used in lieu of actual passenger weights for scheduled operations. These weights are based on FAA Advisory Circular AC 120-27E. The passenger weight includes the weight of one carry-on bag and one personal item. Carry-on bag allowance is applied to adult passengers.

	Passenger Weight (lbs.)		Carry-on (lbs.)	Total Weight (lbs.)	
	Summer	Winter		Summer	Winter
Domestic	174.0	179.0	16	190	195
International	174.0	179.0	16	190	195

Note: For flights where Carry-on Baggage and personal items are not permitted for security reasons, the standard average passenger weight is reduced by 16 pounds to 174 lbs. / Summer and 179 lbs. / Winter.

Children	87.0	87.0		87.0	87.0
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Winter season (November 1 – April 30)

Summer season (May 1 – October 31)

CHILDREN - Applicable to all children between two and twelve years old (inclusive). Unticketed children under 2 years of age are considered infants, and are not eligible for consideration when applying the reduced child weight.

8.3 Non-Standard Passenger Weights

Charter flights that carry non-standard groups such as athletic squads and military movements will use actual passenger weights for these special groups on these operations. Seasonal variances are not applied to these special groups.

For other groups not identified above, passenger weights can be determined and accomplished by the following methods:

1. Using an average passenger weight provided by the group or a designee of that group and adding a predetermined weight for carry-on baggage. Unless otherwise determined, the carry-on baggage weight is 16 lbs. per passenger; or