## Miscellaneous

## Ashtrays on Passenger Airplanes!!

## Somchai Bovornkitti

In 1973, 123 passengers were killed on the plane travelling from Rio de Janeiro to Paris when the pilot made an emergency landing after the cabin filled with smoke caused by a cigarette.

Since 2000 the smoking ban has been ubiquitous internationally for all flights. Currently, ashtrays remain on passenger airplanes! They are there because the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) does not trust the passengers, Notably that about once every six months cabin attendants catch somebody smoking while there is not a safe place to stub it out. The

safe place is not the lavatory's waste bin, which is likely to be filled with flammable tissues. These days, ashtrays are listed as a legal requirement by the FAA. In 2009 a Mexico-bound British Airways flight was briefly grounded after it was discovered not to have ashtrays.

## Acknowledgement

The content of this short issue derived from an article by Joseph Hincks: Why there's still an ashtray on your airplane. TIME October 9, 2017, page 19.