

Russian Low-Coster Pobeda to Keep Charging Passengers With Backpacks

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Maxim Stulov / Vedomosti

Russian budget airline Pobeda is to keep charging passengers who carry rucksacks on their flights, despite a court ruling against the policy.

Russia's Court of Arbitration announced on Friday that it had rejected the company's appeal against a ruling, which found that small backpacks should be as free hand luggage.

The case began after one female passenger argued that her small backpack should be counted as a handbag. Under Russian law, passengers are guaranteed 10 kilograms of luggage on flights free of charge, as well as a number of personal items such as handbags and briefcases.

Pobeda has claimed that the ruling will force the company to raise ticket prices, [the Rosbalt news site reported](#). The company is now preparing a second appeal.

The budget airline, which is owned by Russian state carrier✘Aeroflot, made 37 million rubles (\$570,000) in profit during its✘first year of operation in 2015.

Under the airline's rules, passengers must pay an extra fee if✘they wish to carry a number “special” items such as hand luggage,✘including backpacks, boxes, beach bags, or containers with food.

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