

# ODOR ONBOARD: IS THIS A FUME EVENT?



## 1 TRY TO IDENTIFY SOURCE OF ODOR

### In Cabin Source?

e.g., electrical fault, galley equipment, carry-ons, people

**Address directly.** Ask for assistance if needed.

If aircraft equipment is involved, notify the flight deck and complete a cabin discrepancy form.

### Air Supply Vents?

e.g., engine oil, hydraulic fluid fumes, engine exhaust fumes, deicing fluid

#### On The Ground?

Proceed to step 2.

#### Inflight?

Proceed to step 3.

## 2 IF ON THE GROUND

Quickly determine if there is an obvious explanation for fumes related to ground operations (e.g., deicing, exhaust from ground equipment, etc.)

### If Yes

Use best judgment to decide if odor will likely subside on its own or need to inform pilots

### If No

Proceed to step 3

## 3 NOTIFY FLIGHT DECK

Report to the flight deck. Use the AFA fumes reporting form if you have it, and take a photo of the completed form before you give it to the pilots. Otherwise, either refer to this list or remember the "four Ss" -- Source (vents or not), Smell (describe), Site (location in cabin), and Symptoms (if any). Seek medical assistance per the Flight Attendants Manual if necessary.

- Advise that fumes appear to be coming from air supply vents.
- Fumes in cabin smell like \_\_\_\_\_.
- Fumes are mild/moderate/intense.
- There is or is not smoke/haze.
- Fumes are most noticeable in forward/mid/aft cabin.
- Fumes started during \_\_\_ phase of flight.
- F/As or passengers have \_\_\_ symptoms (if any).
- Report if F/As or passengers are on oxygen or need other medical care.

## 4 IF YOU HAVE SYMPTOMS, GET MEDICAL ATTENTION

- Sick at Gate: Deplane and seek medical assistance
- Sick Inflight:
  - Take Oxygen
  - Ask pilots to call for medical assistance (e.g., Medlink)
  - Seek medical assistance after flight
- Take pictures or video to document conditions and/or symptoms
- Bring the documents posted on the AFA fumes page with you ([www.afa-cwa.org/fumes-onboard](http://www.afa-cwa.org/fumes-onboard))
  - Safety data sheet for the oil or hydraulic fluid at your airline
  - Health care providers' guide
  - AFA Bulletin: "What your doctor needs to know"

## 5 REPORT THE FUME EVENT

Take a photo of any documents you submit, for your records.

1. Provide your Airline with:
  - a. Any Company specific incident reporting form
  - b. Workers' compensation paperwork/request for claim number (as needed)
2. Notify your AFA safety rep. of your event, either by email or phone.