Ryanairs proposal to charge fat people more.

Posted by Jo BPUK - 2009/04/22 18:39

Reported in The Times on 22/04/2009 Ryanair propose to charge fat people more for flying with them. The proposals are as follows:-

* Charge per kg over 130kg/20 stone (male) and 100kg/15 stone (females);

* Charge per inch for every waist inch over 45 inch (male) and 40 inch (female);

* Charge for every point in excess of 40 points on the Body Mass Index (+30 points is obese);

* Charge for a second seat if passengers' waist touches both armrests simultaneously.

The first two proposals one could question why are men being given a bigger allowance for size and weight. this could be seen as sexist. The third point in regards to BMI. What if a person is very toned and muscular, which would cause an increase in their BMI. The third point is just stupid, considering the seats are very slim indeed.

This just seems to me as another way for Ryanair to make more money and just another 'let's pick on the fatties'. On the other hand if your very slim will they allow you extra baggage to make up for the lack of weight? I doubt it.

What do you think?

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Re:Ryanairs proposal to charge fat people more.

Posted by Richard - 2009/04/25 18:45

Simple don't fly with them! They started out as good value but now they charge you for every little item they think they can get away with. Imagine having to pay extra to put your luggage on board.

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Re:Ryanairs proposal to charge fat people more.

Posted by vampstarr - 2009/04/27 14:03

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if they triedthis with muslim, black or pakistani people it would be classed as rasicism, what makes them think they can get away with it with big people?

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Re:Ryanairs proposal to charge fat people more.

Posted by Jo BPUK - 2009/04/27 18:37

They can get away with it as there are no laws to some discrimination against fat people.

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Re:Ryanairs proposal to charge fat people more.

Posted by Wally - 2011/03/25 21:22

Do they plan on measuring everybody and weighing everybody before they board or purchase a ticket. I can understand that they could charge for an extra seat if a person can't sit in one seat but to actually measure and weigh people, it seems ridiculous. There is a fine line between discrimination and legal size regulations. Speaking of rules, is it required that someone get a physical in order to get health insurance or is that just for life insurance?

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Re:Ryanairs proposal to charge fat people more.

Posted by idrinkpaint - 2011/04/14 13:49

During my recent flight back to London from New York City's JFK Airport last week I was unexpectedly bumped from premium economy into economy for "operational reasons" (also known as airline incompetence) and was seated next to a highly obese gentleman whose personal excess spilled over the armrests and onto my good person, which made the whole flight rather unpleasant and uncomfortable. It seems all of the posts made thus far are a selfish and one-sided as they only consider the concerns of obese people and not the concerns of other flyers, so i'll try to bring a bit of balance here.

The absolute bottom line is that physics doesn't do political correctness. The heavier someone is the more fuel it takes to keep them in the air. Like it or not, that is a fact and I would suggest that it is little other than ignorance that some of these moaning gastropods don't understanding that. Morbidly obese people aside, the oversensitivity of politically correct do-gooders on this issue causes them to react with an over-zealous knee jerk but in reality the only thing being discriminatory here is the laws of physics - the laws of physics offend them? Why? These are simply laws that mankind have observed govern the natural universe - it's just the way things are. How can any malice be intended?

Whilst I support the principle of charging passengers according to their weight, the inconvenience and financial cost of implementing and policing this would cancel out any financial gain to either the airline or slim, sexy, athletic people. But then I hear the the morbidly obese people cry “what about tall people, pregnant women or body builders? – Why not charge them more for being heavier?". Well, from the perspective of physics and getting a commercial jet in the air and keeping it there, a 300lb passenger is a 300lb passenger, regardless of the specific nature of the excess bulk they are carrying. I for one am not really happy with subsidising fat, tall, muscular or pregnant passengers. Considering though that an empty Boeing 747-400 weighs about 600,000lbs, carries over 400 passengers (whom would typically constitute only approx between 5-10% of its take-off weight), and that the statistical standard deviation of weight for the populous isn't really that dramatic, I'm sure that if one did the calculations it would be seen there really isn't much to be had here in terms of financial loss or gain to slim people or fat people respectively. However, times are hard - maybe 1.5% off a ticket price might be very helpful to someone.

So in summary, in principle I support charging passengers by weight but I do not believe it to be feasible. And given the statistics, it might be a moot point anyway. I would be much more interested to see a £100 surcharge for anyone who wants to put their seat back (paid directly to the person behind them). I just don't like it when people aggressively knee-jerk to such passenger weight proposals without considering (or being educated to) the facts, those being it does cost the airlines more to fly obsese people. This is not up for debate - the laws of physics dictate it. And though not practicle to do otherwise, is it really fair to distribute this excess cost across everyone?

The scenario in which a passenger spilling over the armrests into another passengers personal space is of course a completely different story. They should buy two seats. I don't think any reasonable person would argue against that. There is a reason the seats are "very slim indeed" - economics dictacte this, as airlines need to get a certain number of people on a flight or it is not economically viable to run it. Most people fit into these seats and are happy to take the inconvenience to enjoy air travel at low cost.

I can now flatter myself that I have blessed this forum with a comprehensive and coherent assessment on the issue of flying obese people, built upon indisputable scientific and economic facts, practicalities and completely decoupled from any misplaced emotion. So, a hate speech? or just good science? I now invite any comments or abuse you may wish to direct at me on this matter.

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Re:Ryanairs proposal to charge fat people more.

Posted by Richard - 2011/04/16 04:21

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idrinkpaint you were obviously a bit annoyed by your recent experience. However I would suggest the airline is at fault for having small seats. As a tall person I find most plane seats uncomfortable

Obviously the business model works otherwise the airlines would change it. The mention of charging more for heavier people is just a money spinner really - nothing much to do with the extra fuel. Using your theory all transport should include a surcharge for fatter people and we can all imagine the chaos that would cause on the bus, train and tube systems.

As you say:

..constitute only approx between 5-10% of its take-off weight), and that the statistical standard deviation of weight for the populous isn't really that dramatic..

so its not really such a big deal is it?

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Re:Ryanairs proposal to charge fat people more.

Posted by idrinkpaint - 2011/04/16 12:39

It's not a theory. It's a scientific fact. Refering you to Newtonian Physics:

E = 0.5 M * V ^ 2

Where E is Energy (i.e. Fuel Burn), M is Mass (or a passenger's "weight") and V is the Velocity or ("speed") that the aircraft needs to maintain to stay in the air. As one can see from this, the heavier a passenger is the more fuel the aircraft will burn. Q.E.D.

As for the "I would suggest the airline is at fault for having small seats", well I would suggest that is just a silly thing to say. Most people fit into those seats. Are you suggesting that the airlines should make seats bigger just to cater for the few people whose waist size are 2 or 3 standard deviations above the average? This would mean that less paying passengers would fit on the aircraft and ticket prices would rocket up - making airline travel prohibitively expensive. Is it really fair for the majority to suffer in this way just to subsidise the minority? I don't think so.

And yes I would apply the same argument to train or bus travel. And aside from the issue of obese passengers spilling over into another person's space, no I don't think it's a big deal but I people tend to argue against such proposals without knowing the facts.

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Re:Ryanairs proposal to charge fat people more.

Posted by Richard - 2011/04/26 02:39

As for the "I would suggest the airline is at fault for having small seats", well I would suggest that is just a silly thing to say. Most people fit into those seats. Are you suggesting that the airlines should make seats bigger just to cater for the few people whose waist size are 2 or 3 standard deviations above the average?

Well obviously it is not silly as it is the very thing you are complaining about! Yes I do think they should make bigger seats or maybe using "science" they should work out the percentage of seats they might need to be slightly bigger and change the seating accordingly.

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Re:Ryanairs proposal to charge fat people more.

Posted by idrinkpaint - 2011/09/02 15:41

But there are already bigger seats available in Upper Class and Premium Economy on premium airlines such as BA. If you can't fit into the economy seats of budget airlines such as Ryanair due to your excessive lifestyle and bad personal choices you have no business using them. Stomp up the extra cash yourself and stop suggesting that people that look after themselves should give up cheap air travel just to subsidise your irresponsible selfish fat arses.

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Re:Ryanairs proposal to charge fat people more.

Posted by Richard - 2011/09/03 15:03

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idrinkpaint. Nice to see a reasoned entry in the forum. Luckily the irresponsible selfish fat arses are not just talking about the width issue, but also the height issue problems with many airline seats. The site is about size acceptance - be it width or height.

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