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## Flight ban on smoking sought

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PROPOSALS to impose a complete smoking ban on international flights are turning the clean air debate into a burning trade issue.

The Canadian government has written to the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) asking all member countries to consider a resolution to ban smoking on international flights.

However, Canadian carriers are worried that they risk serious competitive disadvantages if they had to apply a complete smoking ban on long international flights while other carriers continued to allow smoking.

Canadian Airlines is particularly worried by the Canadian government's smoking ban because of its possible impact on the carrier's lucrative Japanese business. Mr Kevin Jenkins, chief operating officer, says Canadian risks losing as much as C\$40m (£19m) a year if a complete smoking ban on international flights were imposed on Canadian carriers.

He explained that Japanese travellers were big smokers. "We would lose 15 per cent of our traffic in Japan if smoking was banned and would probably pick up only an additional 3 per cent on other routes."

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