



Australian Government

**Department of Transport and
Regional Services**

Important security tips for air travellers

Strengthening aviation security





The Australian Government has already introduced many new aviation security measures to keep you safe and to protect our airports, airlines and industry from threats of terrorism and other criminal activities.

You may have already noticed some of them, such as passenger and baggage screening and explosive trace detection testing. Other security measures are not as noticeable, but contribute to a comprehensive security approach.

We will be introducing more security measures from 10 March 2005 and extending them to many airports in regional Australia for the first time. For some of these airports, security equipment will not be used routinely, but is available to be used if required.

It's important that you're aware of how these changes will affect you. Please take a few moments to read this brochure. It will help you get through airport security and on your way to catch your flight as quickly as possible.



DON'T:

- 1 Make jokes about bombs or security threats. This is now a criminal offence.
- 2 Pack sharp objects such as knives, scissors, corkscrews, or knitting needles in your hand luggage.
- 3 Refuse screening.
- 4 Leave your hand luggage unattended at any time.
- 5 Refuse random explosive trace detection (ETD) screening if you are asked to participate.

Will this extra security delay me?

If you're not carrying prohibited items or weapons and you follow the directions of the airport security and screening staff, the new procedures should only take a few minutes. Be aware, however, that at peak travel times, you should always allow plenty of time to check in and go through the security point in order to get to your gate lounge in time.



DO:

- 1 Take airport and aircraft security seriously and give yourself time to clear airport screening processes.
- 2 Cooperate with the requests and directions of screening staff and airport and airline officials.
- 3 Place small and valuable items in your hand luggage before you get to the screening point.
- 4 Place all the contents of your pockets into a tray before going through the screening point.
- 5 Let screening staff know if you have any medical conditions that might be affected by the screening: for example if you have a pacemaker or implanted metallic joint.
- 6 Take your laptop out of its case and place it in a tray and then onto the screening conveyor belt.
- 7 Hand over any prohibited items and weapons to the screening staff at the security screening point. Better still, check with your airline beforehand as to what you can't take on board and either leave it at home or pack it in your checked baggage if permitted.



Security on the ground and in the air

At larger airports, you and any family members and friends accompanying you to the gate lounge will be screened at the screening point. Your effects will be x-rayed and you will need to walk through a metal-detecting device after removing any objects such as mobile phones, keys, coins and metallic decorative items. These items should be placed with your personal effects or in the small trays provided at the screening points for x-ray screening. If you have a laptop computer, take it out of its case and place it in one of the large trays before it is screened.

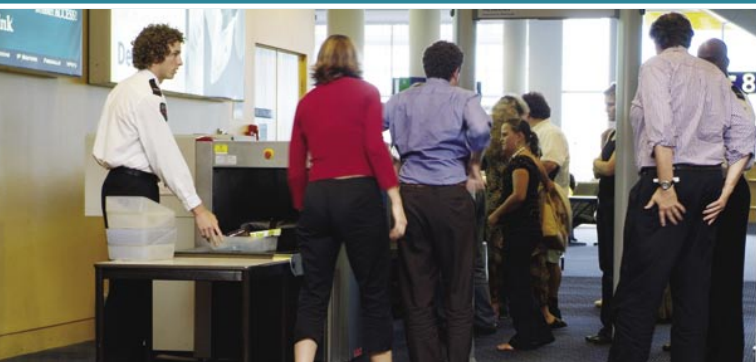
If these tests are not clear, you might also be asked to take part in a limited pat-down or frisk search or to remove some items of clothing. You can ask for this to take place in a private or screened off area.

You may also be asked to take part in an explosive trace detection or ETD test. This is a simple, non-invasive process that scans for traces of explosives on clothing, in shoes and in hand luggage. It is to minimise the risk of anyone getting onboard your aircraft with these items. If you are selected, the test will take only a minute or two to perform.

If you refuse to be screened or have the ETD test done when requested, you will not be allowed to board your aircraft.

What if I have a wheelchair, pram or other mobility device?

Your wheelchair, pram and any other mobility device will also need to be screened before you can board your aircraft. The screening staff might ask your permission to screen your wheelchair, pram and other devices using



an explosive trace detection (ETD) wand and they might ask your permission to conduct a brief frisk search (pat-down inspection). You can ask for this to take place in a private or screened off area.

What if I need to carry a hypodermic needle?

A medical practitioner or paramedic caring for someone or an ambulance officer responding to an emergency can carry hypodermic needles, a defibrillator or aerosol for medical purposes. Members of the public who require these sorts of items, or their carer, must present a medical certificate and their medical instruments to the screening officer at the airport and the cabin crew onboard.

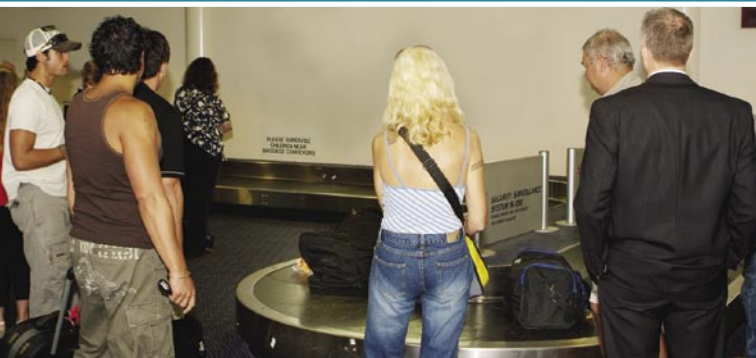
What can't I take on board?

A number of items are prohibited from being carried in the cabin of an aircraft or through a screening point (refer to the coloured box in this brochure) because they are a security risk.

As well, there are some common household items that are dangerous and should not be taken on board because they pose a significant risk to safety when transported by air. If you are not sure which items to take with you, please check with your airline or check your ticket to see which items are listed as dangerous goods. More information is available at www.casa.gov.au/dg/luggage/index.htm

What happens if I am found to be carrying a prohibited item?

You will be required to surrender any prohibited items you are carrying before you will be allowed onto your flight. Most airports dispose of surrendered items. If a friend or family member has come with you to the airport, you could ask them to look after the items for you, but they



would not then be allowed past the screening point. If you are in any doubt about an item, either leave it behind or pack it in your checked baggage.

What can't I take on board?

There are a number of items (including weapons) that you are prohibited from carrying in the cabin of an aircraft or through a screening point. Examples of such prohibited items and weapons include:

- knives, including metal cutlery knives
- guns and ammunition, including toys and replicas
- explosives
- a pair of scissors with blades more than 6cm long, or a pair of manicure scissors
- tools such as chisels, knitting needles and crochet hooks
- corkscrews with sharp points
- crossbows and spear guns
- sporting goods that could be used to harm including bats, sticks, poles, rods and spikes.

This is **not** a complete list of weapons and prohibited items. There may also be other things banned under other forms of legislation. If you are unsure about any such items, please check with your airline before you travel – or leave them at home.





What do I do if I'm concerned about security?

While at an airport, if you see anything that concerns you about security that might result in harm to an airport, airline, airport worker or a fellow traveller, you should ask to speak to either the airline or airport security manager.

You can also contact the 24-hour National Security Hotline (and remain anonymous if you wish) on 1800 123 400.

Further information about aviation security is available at www.dotars.gov.au/transsec/latsa



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