



Australian Government

Department of Transport and Regional Services

Aviation Security: Fact Sheet: Liquids Aerosols and Gels

From 31 March 2007, the Australian Government will introduce enhanced security measures to limit the amount of liquids, aerosols, and gels that can be taken through the screening point.

This measure responds directly to vulnerabilities identified after a foiled terrorist plot in the UK, in August 2006. They are consistent with practices adopted by Canada, the EU and UK and the US, where they have proven successful at keeping delays to a minimum whilst delivering improved security.

What are the new rules?

Restrictions now being introduced will limit the amount of liquids, aerosols, and gels that can be taken through the screening point. Passengers can still take on board items purchased after the screening point, including duty free.

Passengers may still carry on board the things they would normally take in carry-on baggage, such as cameras; personal music devices; books; and clothing. Additionally, existing restrictions for carry-on baggage remain the same.

All containers with drinks, creams, perfumes, sprays, gels, toothpaste and similar substances will have to be carried in a re-sealable transparent plastic bag, no larger than one litre, and be inspected separately at the airport screening point. Each container should not have a capacity greater than 100 millilitres and all containers should fit comfortably in the sealed plastic bag.

The benefit of transparent plastic bags is that it makes it easy to display and inspect the liquids passengers are carrying, while protecting carry-on baggage against leaks.

Exceptions will be made for passengers with medical conditions and quantities of baby food required for the flight. However, these items may be subject to additional security checks. Larger amounts of liquids can still be carried in checked baggage.

Who will be affected?

This measure will affect only those people who are flying to and from Australia. The Government will consult with industry on the new measures to be implemented at international airports and to review whether similar measures are required at domestic airports. Additionally, the Government will undertake a public communications campaign and provide additional training for screeners on the new measures.

The Australian Government understands that the new rules will affect airport security staff, airlines, airport retailers and passengers. We are working hard to ensure that the rules are fair and communicated effectively to the travelling public. Overseas experience suggests that once travellers are familiar with the measures delays have been minimal.

This measure is one of a suite of measures the Australian Government has introduced to increase aviation security and to harmonise with international aviation security regulations.