

Australia tightens security for international air passengers

In response to the threat posed by liquid explosives new security arrangements are being introduced. From 31 March 2007, passengers on international flights to and from Australia will only be allowed to carry a small amount of liquids, (including aerosols and gels) in their carry-on baggage. The restriction will cover items such as drinks, creams, perfumes, sprays, gels, toothpaste and other similar substances.

Liquids will only be allowed in carry-on baggage if they are in containers up to 100ml in capacity and these containers are put in a one-litre, resealable transparent plastic bag. Having carry-on liquids organised in the plastic bag before arriving at the security screening point will minimise delays and disruption. The bags can be purchased at most supermarkets and measure approximately 20cm by 20cm. Passengers are only allowed one bag.

In addition, any person passing through an international screening point may be subject to a frisk search (this selection occurs randomly). All frisk searches are undertaken by a person of the same gender.

Exemptions

Passengers may still carry on board prescription medicines where the name on the medicine matches the name on the boarding pass. Baby products and non-prescription medicines necessary for the flight are also allowed.

Duty Free

Departing Australia: For flights departing Australia, passengers may take on-board an aircraft any liquids, aerosols and gels, including duty free, of a greater capacity than 100ml that they have purchased or collected after the security screening point of an Australian international airport.

Passengers should be aware that restrictions may apply in other countries that will prevent duty free items being taken through transit stops.

Departing overseas airports for Australia: For flights bound to Australia, passengers may purchase duty free liquids, aerosols and gels of a greater capacity than 100ml at the airport of departure if they can be delivered to the boarding gate in a sealed bag with proof of purchase. They can only be collected by the passenger after proceeding through the screening point.

Further, passengers may purchase liquid, aerosol and gel duty free items onboard an aircraft, but should note that in some instances these items will not be permitted to be taken through transit screening points.

Arriving in Australia: For flights arriving in Australia passengers may purchase duty free liquids, aerosols and gels at the inbound duty free (arrivals) shops at Australian airports.

The Australian Government is working closely with other countries on the issues of transit duty free and liquids aerosols and gels.

There are no changes to the amount of aerosols, liquids and gels you are allowed to pack in each passenger's checked baggage. Please note that current restrictions on Dangerous Goods apply.

For more information on these measures, including the carriage of duty-free, please speak with your airlines or visit the Department of Transport and Regional Services website at www.dotars.gov.au.

The key points:

- containers do not exceed 100 millilitres individually
- containers fit comfortably within the re-sealable one-litre transparent plastic bag
- only one bag per passenger
- plastic bag measures approximately 20 cm X 20 cm or 15cm x 25 cm