

Airport security

The following is a guide to the security requirements for all passengers departing from UK airports and also provides some advice that will help passengers pass through the security search point as quickly as possible.

Key points to remember:

With effect from 7 January 2008, the one item restriction will no longer apply at certain airports. [Click here for more details](#). The maximum size for items of hand luggage is 56cm x 45cm x 25cm per bag. However, airlines apply their own operational policies governing the number of items of hand baggage which may be taken in to the aircraft cabin.

Before departing we strongly suggest you check with your airline on the cabin baggage arrangements for your particular journey.

Where possible, put all liquid items in your hold baggage. This includes water and other drinks, creams, sprays, pastes and gels. Liquids, gels and aerosols are only allowed in individual containers of 100ml. All containers must fit comfortably in one, transparent, re-sealable bag no larger than 20cm x 20cm (eg a freezer bag).

Passenger requirements

Liquids

Some liquids are allowed through airport security check points. There are however, restrictions on the quantity of liquids that can be taken through:

- Passengers may carry small quantities of liquids, but only within separate containers each of which with a capacity not greater than 100ml.

These containers must be brought to the airport contained in a **single, transparent, re-sealable plastic bag (about the size of a small freezer bag)**, which itself must not exceed 1 litre in capacity, approximately 20cm x 20cm. The contents of the plastic bag must fit comfortably and the bag sealed. Each passenger may carry only one such bag of liquids.

The bag must be presented **separately** for examination at the airport security point.

Please note:

- Any containers larger than 100ml (excluding essential medicines, see section below) will NOT be allowed through the security search point.
- Most liquids of any amount may still be carried in hold baggage.
- **One** lighter per person may be carried through central search. Lighters form part of the allowance of liquid in the litre bag and can either be placed inside the litre bag or screened separately provided they would fit into the bag. It is very important that passengers do not place the lighter into their cabin bag after screening - it must be carried on the person for the duration of the flight. Lighters are NOT permitted in hold baggage.

Remember that 'Liquids' includes:

- All drinks, including water, soup, syrups
- Creams, lotions, oils, perfumes, mascara etc
- Sprays and pressurized containers including shaving foam and spray deodorants
- Pastes, including toothpastes
- Gels, including hair and shower gel
- Any other solutions and items of similar consistency

Please note that liquids can usually be purchased beyond airport security search points, in the departures area, as these liquids are subject to a separate screening process.

Essential medicines

Essential medicines for the period of the trip may be permitted in larger quantities above the 100ml limit, but will be subject to authentication. Passengers must have obtained the prior agreement of the airline with which they are travelling and their departure airport. Passengers must also bring with them supporting documentation from a relevant qualified medical professional.

Baby Food

Liquid baby food or sterilised water, sufficient for the journey, can be taken through airport security. The accompanying adult will be required to verify by tasting.

Cabin baggage and size allowed

From early January 2008 airports in the UK will gradually be able to accept additional hand luggage as they open up additional capacity. A list of the airports where the restriction has been lifted can be found . Arrangements at each airport will be different. Until otherwise informed by their airport or airline, passengers should continue to prepare to travel with just one item of cabin luggage.

The standard maximum size for hand luggage is 56cm x 45cm x 25cm, including wheels, handles and external pockets. The 1 litre re-sealable bag must be able to fit within the cabin bag, although you will be required to present it separately at security. Be aware that some airlines may require a smaller bag under their own policies.

Before departing we strongly suggest you check with your airline on the cabin baggage arrangements for your particular journey.

Pushchairs, walking aids and wheelchairs are usually permitted but will be security screened. You should check with your airline.

Laptops / electrical items

Laptops and other large electrical items, e.g. a large hairdryer, have to be removed from cabin baggage and screened separately. A laptop bag that is not contained within the one piece of cabin baggage is regarded as the one allowable item of cabin baggage.

Outsize items

All items of luggage larger than the permitted cabin baggage size maximum length 56 cm, width of 45 cm and depth of 25 cm, including wheels, handles and external pockets. must be checked in to be placed in the aircraft hold. The only exception is musical instruments. These are allowed as a second item of cabin baggage if they do not fit into the cabin bag. They will however need to be screened and passengers should check with their airlines as to whether there are special arrangements e.g. purchasing an extra seat. for these large instruments.

Preparing for your journey

Before you arrive at the airport

- Limit quantities of liquids to what you may need in the cabin for the duration of the flight.
- Make sure you are aware of the amount of hand luggage you are able to take through the security search point - some airports still restrict passengers to one bag each. A list of the airports where the restriction has been lifted can be found [here](#).
- When possible, put all liquids in hold baggage. Remember do not to place lighters into hold baggage - the one lighter permitted must be carried on the person for the duration of the flight.
- Prepare the re-sealable bag of liquids before arriving at the airport.
- Check any queries you have with your airport or airline before travelling to the airport.
- Please note that any gifts carried in the cabin bag should be unwrapped.

As you approach the security search point

- Be ready to hand over your re-sealable bag of liquids for screening as you approach the security search point. It will be screened at the same time as your cabin baggage.
- All coats and jackets will have to be removed ready to be screened and metal items may need to be placed in plastic trays and screened separately.
- If you are carrying a laptop or any other large electrical item within your cabin luggage then please have it ready for separate screening.
- Please note that you may be asked to remove your footwear for security screening.

Duty free/departure lounge purchases

- You may take on board liquid items of any size that are purchased after the security search point in the departure lounge (sometimes referred to as 'Airside'), as these items would have undergone a separate screening process.
- Most duty free or similar purchases will be given to you in a special sealed bag. Do not open this bag until you have reached your final destination. You should also retain your proof of purchase throughout your journey. You will be required to show it at all transfer points.
- Please note restrictions apply to duty free purchases made on return journeys where passengers change flights at an EU airport. These are explained in detail in the next section.

Please remember that these are the requirements set down by the Department for Transport. Airlines and Airports may have additional measures in place, and passengers are strongly advised to check the website of their carrier or airport before travelling.

Returning to the UK

Travelling from an airport in the EU, Norway, Iceland or Switzerland

The arrangements outlined in the '[What are the requirements?](#)' page apply. Please note restrictions on cabin baggage sizes may not be in effect in some EU member states, Norway, Iceland or Switzerland. For further details please check with your carrier.

Travelling from an airport in any other country

Local arrangements apply.

Special information on liquids for transit/transfer passengers

If your journey involves changing flights at any EU airport or at an airport in Norway, Iceland or Switzerland, special restrictions apply. You may only take liquid items (for example duty free) through the security search point at your connecting airport if:

- they conform to the requirements for passengers departing from an EU airport or at an airport in Norway, Iceland or Switzerland i.e. the one litre bag requirement as set out above in '[What are the requirements?](#)'; or
- they have been purchased airside at another EU airport, or airside from an airport in Norway, Iceland or Switzerland, or on board an aircraft operated by an EU carrier. The liquid items must be in a bag that is tamper evident and you will need to be able to demonstrate that the purchase has been made on the day of travel; or
- they have been purchased airside at Changi Airport, Singapore, where special arrangements are in place. The liquid items must be in a bag that is tamper evident and you will need to be able to demonstrate that the purchase has been made within the last 36 hours. You are advised to check with your air carrier to confirm that your connecting airport is applying this ruling.

In all other circumstances liquid items not conforming to the above requirements will not be permitted to be carried through transfer search points including those liquid items purchased from other airports or on board other airlines. The member states of the European Union are:

- Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom.

Before departing we strongly advise that you check with your air carrier on the cabin baggage and liquids arrangements for your particular journey.