

What can you take through airport security?

Aviation Security

May 2017

Introduction

This document is a guide to whether or not certain items may be carried in cabin baggage, along with any associated conditions. Under European Regulations, many items are prohibited. In addition to these, other items may not be permitted if a security officer considers them to be dangerous. You should check with the airport you are departing from if you have any concerns

Further information is available from the [Department for Transport](#) and the dangerous goods pages on the CAA website.

Liquids

Restrictions on the carriage of liquids through airport security controls have now been in force for more than ten years. Every year, millions of prohibited liquid items are still having to be abandoned at airports by passengers who have forgotten to pack them in hold baggage. The cost of this to both passengers and airports is immense and leads to longer queues to get through security.

All liquid toiletry and cosmetic items such as shampoo, sun cream, perfumes and aftershaves in containers over 100 ml must be packed in hold baggage. Where oversized liquids are found inside cabin baggage, passengers will always have to abandon them at security, or make use of a 'mail and fly' service if available. Apart from some specific items mentioned below, there are no exceptions.

Definition of liquid items

Liquids, aerosols and gels (LAGs) are all liquid items for aviation security purposes. This includes all drinks, toiletry and cosmetic items such as shampoo and shower gel, toothpaste, liquid/aerosol deodorant, hairspray, hair gel, mascara and foundation cream. It does not include solid deodorant sticks and solid bars of soap. Food items such as jam, honey and peanut butter are all considered to be liquids, as are all other items of a similar consistency. Note that liquid/solid mixtures of food, such as solid food in a sauce, are also considered liquids.

Liquid restrictions through security

LAGs can be carried in individual containers not exceeding 100 ml each. These must be placed in a resealable plastic bag (not tied or knotted) that is transparent and measures approximately 20 cm by 20 cm. The contents must fit comfortably so that the bag can completely close. Each passenger, including children, may carry one such bag in their cabin baggage. This must be presented separately to cabin baggage. There are exceptions for medication, explained below.

Medication

All prescription medication and dietary liquids that you have medical confirmation for are allowed. Any that are in containers of 100 ml or less may be placed in a re-sealable plastic bag as above if you wish. This can be carried in addition to a bag containing toiletry and cosmetic items and must be presented separately to cabin baggage. Any containers over 100 ml must also be taken out of cabin baggage, and will be subject to additional screening.

The security officer may ask to see your medical confirmation. This could be your name on a prescription label or a letter from your doctor. You should only carry the amount you need for your trip.

If the label on the medication or medical confirmation states that medication must be kept cool, you may carry an ice pack or cooling gel pack in cabin baggage. These will need to be removed for separate screening.

These conditions only apply to prescription medication. Over-the-counter medicines are subject to the same restrictions as toiletry/cosmetic liquids.

Baby food and milk

When travelling with a baby, the following may be carried. They must be presented separately to your cabin baggage for additional screening:

- Baby food (in cans, glass bottles or pouches)
- Milk (any required type for the trip, in bottles or cartons)
- Sterilised water in a baby bottle

Passengers may carry expressed breast milk in containers of up to two litres in liquid form only (i.e. not frozen). There is no limit on the number of containers that may be carried. A baby does not have to be present to carry expressed milk.

Other items

Item	Allowed in cabin baggage?	Details
Ashes - human/ animal	Yes	Ensure that these are carried in a ceramic, plastic or wooden container to enable effective screening. They should not be carried in a metallic or crystal container. We recommend that you carry a certificate from the crematorium or funeral home confirming that the cremation has taken place.

Item	Allowed in cabin baggage?	Details
Camping equipment	See details	<p>Sharp items such as tent pegs are not permitted in cabin baggage. They may be carried in the hold.</p> <p>The following are permitted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tents, dependent on size (they must fit into your baggage allowance) • Sleeping bags • Camping stoves (these must be empty of fuel) <p>Due to the size and complexity of camping gear, we recommend you carry it in your hold baggage.</p>
Candles	See details	<p>Solid wax candles are permitted.</p> <p>Gel type candles fall under liquid, aerosol and gel restrictions and therefore may not be carried if they are over 100ml in volume.</p>
Chemicals	No	<p>Chemicals and toxic substances are not permitted in cabin or hold baggage. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-defence and disabling sprays (including pepper spray) • Vehicle batteries • Car body repair kits
Christmas crackers	Yes	<p>Christmas crackers may be carried provided they are in their original unopened packaging.</p>
Cigarette lighter/ matches	See details	<p>These are not permitted in cabin baggage but each passenger may take either one cigarette lighter or one box of safety matches on their person (e.g. a pocket). A cigarette lighter must be placed in a resealable plastic bag for screening but must be returned to your pocket for carriage onto the aircraft for safety reasons.</p> <p>Non-safety, strike anywhere matches are prohibited.</p>
Electrical items	Yes	<p>There are usually no restrictions on electrical or battery operated items, although they must be able to fit in bags that conform to the maximum allowed in the cabin. Some of the less common items that may be taken in cabin baggage include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kettles • Blenders • Games consoles • Sky box receivers • UV nail lamps <p>Any item operated by rechargeable battery, such as a laptop, computer tablet, mobile phone or e-reader must be able to be switched on if requested, so we advise that these are charged up before travel.</p>
Fireworks	No	<p>Fireworks, however small, cannot be carried in either cabin or hold baggage.</p>

Item	Allowed in cabin baggage?	Details
Guns - toy/replica	No	Any item that resembles a firearm in any way, whether capable of firing a projectile or not, is prohibited.
Hair styling equipment (gas powered)	Yes	Hair styling equipment powered by gas cartridge is permitted as long as the safety cover is fitted at all times. Spare gas cartridges cannot be carried.
Hover board and other portable electronic devices	No	Most airlines have now banned the carriage of hover boards due to concerns over the safety of the lithium batteries they contain. We recommend that you do not attempt to carry such items through security. If you wish to carry them in hold baggage, you should gain authorisation from your airline in advance of travel.
Knitting needles/ crochet hooks	Yes	N/A
Medical equipment	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Epi-pens are permitted • Inhalers and hypodermic syringes are allowed, but medical confirmation that they are essential to your journey is required. • Other equipment such as a TENS machine or CPAP machine are allowed, but you should contact your airline in advance. • You must contact your airline if you require an oxygen cylinder • Mobility equipment such as walking sticks, crutches, baby buggies and wheelchairs are permitted but these will be screened. • You must contact your airline in advance if you wish to bring a battery operated wheelchair or a mobility scooter
Musical instruments	Yes	<p>Small musical instruments can be carried in hand baggage, although you may be asked to remove it from your bag for screening.</p> <p>For large musical instruments, you must contact your airline before you book, in case special arrangements are required.</p>
Occupational tools	See details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All knives with a blade over 6 cm are prohibited and must be packed in hold baggage. • Work tools such as screwdrivers, hammers, etc. are prohibited and also must not be carried in cabin baggage.
Selfie sticks/ camera extension pole	Yes	Providing they do not have a sharp or pointed end, these are permitted. However, where they are very long and are not collapsible, you should consider contacting your airline in advance.

Item	Allowed in cabin baggage?	Details
Sharps	See details	<p>'Sharps' are items that could be used to cause injury to yourself or another person. Some are allowed to be carried in cabin baggage, dependent on size, but most are prohibited.</p> <p>The most common sharp items removed from passengers are scissors, razors, pen knives, corkscrews, multi tools and tent pegs. We recommend that passengers pack these items in their hold baggage. If you only have cabin baggage, bear the following in mind:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scissors may be carried if the blade measures no more than 6 cm from the fulcrum to the point (e.g. nail scissors). Blunt ended scissors may be carried. • Razors - fixed-cartridge (disposable) razor blades can be carried in cabin baggage. • Pen knives are allowed if the blade is less than 6 cm. • Multi tools (e.g. Leatherman and Swiss Army knife tools). Although these may contain a knife with a blade shorter than 6 cm, many of these tools contain other implements with a sharp point, which are prohibited. We strongly recommend that you carry these items in hold baggage or do not carry them at all. • Corkscrews are prohibited in hand baggage. • Tent pegs are prohibited in hand baggage.
Skateboards	Yes	There are no security restrictions on the carriage of a skateboard, but we recommend that you contact your airline for permission to carry it.
Snow/glitter globes	No	We recommend that all snow and glitter globes are placed in hold baggage. These are not generally marked to show how much liquid they contain, and usually hold more than 100 ml. If they are not marked, security officers cannot establish how much liquid they hold and they will therefore not be allowed through security.
Sports equipment	See details	<p>Most sports equipment cannot be carried in cabin baggage, including: bats, racquets, darts and fishing rods.</p> <p>Climbing or cycling helmets are allowed, as are sports parachutes.</p> <p>For diving equipment, you should make arrangements with your airline in advance of travel.</p>
Umbrellas	Yes	While there are no security restrictions on the carriage of umbrellas, larger 'golf' style umbrellas may not be allowed due to space constraints.