

New EU security rules at airports: Restrictions on liquids

A brief guide to help you

To protect you against the new threat of liquid explosives, the European Union (EU) has adopted new security rules that restrict the amount of liquids that you can take through security checkpoints. They apply to all passengers departing from airports in the EU whatever their destination.

This means that, at security checkpoints, you and your hand luggage must be checked for liquids in addition to other prohibited articles. However, the new rules do not limit the liquids that you can buy at EU airport shops located beyond the point where you show your boarding pass or on board an aircraft operated by an EU airline.

The new rules took effect on 6 November 2006, at all airports in the EU and in Norway, Iceland and Switzerland until further notice.

What is new?

While packing

You are only allowed to take small quantities of liquids in your hand luggage. These liquids (e.g. water, drinks, syrups, and soups) also include other items of similar consistency (e.g. gels, sprays, shampoos, sun lotion, oils, creams, and tooth paste). The individual container must have a capacity not greater than 100ml. All containers must fit comfortably in a transparent and re-sealable plastic bag of a capacity not exceeding 1 litre (see photo). You are not allowed to use ordinary plastic bags and tie them shut, for instance with a rubber band. One bag per passenger is permissible. One easily available type is the 1-litre re-sealable freezer bag, which is sold in most supermarkets.

At the airport

To help screeners detect liquids, you must:

- present all liquids carried to the screeners at security check points for examination;
- take off your jacket and/or coat. They will be screened separately whilst you are screened;
- remove laptop computers and other similar electrical devices from your hand luggage. They will be screened separately whilst you are screened.

What does not change?

- You can still: pack liquids in the **bags that you check in** – the new rules only affect hand luggage;
- Also, you are still allowed to carry
 - baby food, milk or juice for babies or small children for use during the trip;
 - prescribed medicines,
 - other non-prescription medicines (liquid medicines, gels and/or sprays) and
 - liquids or gels for diabetic patients (insulin or juices),in your hand luggage for use during the trip. You may be asked for proof that they are needed (e.g. a medical or other certificate).
- You can still buy liquids such as drinks and perfumes either in an EU airport shop when located beyond the point where you show your boarding pass or on board an aircraft operated by an EU airline.
If the liquids are sold in a special sealed bag, you may take them through security checks at other EU airports (in addition to the re-sealable 1-litre bag).

If you have any doubts, please ask your airline or travel agency in advance of travel.