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Transporting Firearms and Ammunition

You may transport unloaded firearms in a locked hard-sided container as checked baggage only. Declare the firearm and/or ammunition to the airline when checking your bag at the ticket counter. The container must completely secure the firearm from being accessed. Locked cases that can be easily opened are not permitted. Be aware that the container the firearm was in when purchased may not adequately secure the firearm when it is transported in checked baggage.

Contact the [TSA Contact Center](#) with questions you have regarding TSA firearm regulations and for clarification on what you may or may not transport in your carry-on or checked baggage.

Firearms

- When traveling, comply with the laws concerning possession of firearms as they vary by local, state and international governments.
- If you are traveling internationally with a firearm in checked baggage, please check the U.S. Customs and Border Protection website for information and requirements prior to travel.
- Declare each firearm each time you present it for transport as checked baggage. Ask your airline about limitations or fees that may apply.
- Firearms must be unloaded and locked in a hard-sided container and transported as checked baggage only. As defined by [49 CFR 1540.5](#) a loaded firearm has a live round of ammunition, or any component thereof, in the chamber or cylinder or in a magazine inserted in the firearm. Only the passenger should retain the key or combination to the lock unless TSA personnel request the key to open the firearm container to ensure compliance with TSA regulations.
- Firearm parts, including magazines, clips, bolts and firing pins, are prohibited in carry-on baggage, but may be transported in checked baggage.
- Replica firearms, including firearm replicas that are toys, may be transported in checked baggage only.
- Rifle scopes are permitted in carry-on and checked baggage.

United States Code, Title 18, Part 1, Chapter 44, firearm definitions includes: any weapon (including a starter gun) which will, or is designed to, or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive; the frame or receiver of any such weapon; any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; and any destructive device. As defined by [49 CFR 1540.5](#) a loaded firearm has a live round of ammunition, or any component thereof, in the chamber or cylinder or in a magazine inserted in the firearm.

Ammunition

- Ammunition is prohibited in carry-on baggage, but may be transported in checked baggage.
- Firearm magazines and ammunition clips, whether loaded or empty, must be securely boxed or included within a hard-sided case containing an unloaded firearm. [Read the requirements](#) governing the transport of ammunition in checked baggage as defined by 49 CFR 175.10 (a)(8).
- Small arms ammunition, including ammunition not exceeding .75 caliber and shotgun shells of any gauge, may be carried in the same hard-sided case as the firearm.

[Read the guidelines for law enforcement officers flying armed.](#)





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Pepper Spray

Carry On Bags: No**Checked Bags: Yes**

One 4 fl. oz. (118 ml) container of mace or pepper spray is permitted in checked baggage provided it is equipped with a safety mechanism to prevent accidental discharge. Self-defense sprays containing more than 2 percent by mass of tear gas (CS or CN) are prohibited in checked baggage. For more information, visit [faa.gov](#).

We recommend checking with your airline as some may not allow this item in checked bags.

[For more prohibited items, please go to the 'What Can I Bring?' page.](#)

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TSA Urban Legends (Nail Clippers, Knitting Needles and Corkscrews)

Saturday, May 09, 2009

Bigfoot is probably one of the best known urban legends, but nail clippers, [knitting needles](#) and corkscrews are probably the most believed.

Some time ago, someone out there spread a nasty rumor about us, that lead many of today's passengers to believe that we don't allow any of those three items. The facts though, contradict the myth.

Knitting needles, carried by grandma, Mrs. Claus or Jeremy down the street are permitted. Plastic, metal, clay, titanium... Whatever... Permitted.

Corkscrews are a little tricky, but also permitted. Let's be clear, corkscrews without knives. We know many corkscrews have the little knife that help cut the metal wrapping on a bottle, those are not allowed, but the little corkscrews with no knife are. Clear? No? Let's try this.

Fancy schmancy corkscrews with knives, no. Cheap corkscrews with no knife, yes.

Lastly, nail clippers. I can't even count the number of times I have heard or seen this... Totally not true. Way back when, 2001, pre-TSA, post 9-11, nail clippers were prohibited, probably an immediate reaction to the events of that day. However, when we came along, we changed the list, allowed nail clippers, but still get accused of being pro-long finger nail. Totally not true.

Trim those nails, in flight if you want, just be sure the passenger sitting next to you doesn't mind a flying hang nail.... Oh yeah, no blades on nail clippers either. Nail files on the other hand are OK.

So to sum up, if you are the kind of person who likes to drink wine, knit and clip your nails, you are free to do all three in flight... So long as you don't have any blades.

Nico

TSA Guest Blogger/TSA Spokesperson

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Comments

Submitted by Miller on Sat, 2009-05-09 09:35

A puff post when so many questions go unanswered. We don't forget.

[reply](#)

About This Blog

The purpose of this blog is to communicate with the public about all things TSA related. Check in regularly for "TSA Travel Tips" and our "TSA Week in Review" series where we provide a rundown of firearm discoveries and other interesting finds.

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Tim @boucher_timothy · 13 Dec 2016



@AskTSA can I have trauma shears in my checked baggage?



1



AskTSA

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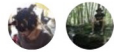


Replying to @boucher_timothy

Trauma shears are allowed in checked bags. If the blades are less than 4in they can go in carry-on bags. Safe travels!

9:21 AM - 13 Dec 2016

2 Likes



1



2



Tim @boucher_timothy · 13 Dec 2016



Replying to @AskTSA

thanks guys!



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Gaby Headley @gheadley90 · 16 May 2017



@AskTSA Can I bring these medical shears in my carry on? I like to bring a first aid kit along with me as much as possible.



1



AskTSA ✓

@AskTSA

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Replying to @gheadley90

Medical shears that are 4" or less, measured from the pivot point, are allowed in carry-on bags. Have a safe trip!

1:32 PM - 16 May 2017

**AskTSA**

@AskTSA

[Follow](#)Replying to [@JamesBond404](#)

Medical shears must be under 4 inches from the fulcrum when placed in carry-on bags, James.

10:12 PM - 6 Jan 2017

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jazzmayynne @Jazzmayynne · 20 May 2017



@AskTSA Are you allowed to pack electric hair clippers & trimmers that have cords attached in your carry on?



1



AskTSA @AskTSA · 20 May 2017



Thanks for asking! Electric hair clippers and trimmers are good to go in your carry-on bags. Safe travels!



1



jazzmayynne @Jazzmayynne · 20 May 2017



Thanks for responding so fast! What about shears for cutting hair? They will be in a protective case



1



AskTSA @AskTSA · 20 May 2017



Shears must be placed in checked bags. Have a nice day!



1



jazzmayynne @Jazzmayynne · 20 May 2017



Even if they are less than 4 inches from the pivot??



1



AskTSA



@AskTSA

Follow



Replying to @Jazzmayynne

Sorry for the confusion. Shears with blades less than 4 inches are allowed in carry-on bags. Safe travels!

6:51 PM - 20 May 2017



1





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Scissors

Carry On Bags: Yes (Special Instructions)**Checked Bags: Yes**

If packed in carry-on, they must be less than 4 inches from the pivot point.

Any sharp objects in checked bags should be sheathed or securely wrapped to prevent injury to baggage handlers and inspectors.

For more prohibited items, please go to the 'What Can I Bring?' page.

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U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

February 18, 2005

The Honorable Don Young
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Young:

Thank you for your letter, dated June 18, 2003, to Admiral James M. Loy, then-Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), concerning the applicability of 18 U.S.C. section 926A to persons at airports in New York State who are taking flights to destinations outside of New York. Because section 926A is a provision of the Gun Control Act (GCA), which the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) enforces, TSA forwarded your letter to the Department of Justice for response. We apologize for the delay in responding.

In your letter you explained that local police officers in New York have threatened several individuals at John F. Kennedy International Airport and Albany International Airport with arrest for firearms possession based on strict State laws, and that in at least one case the firearms were confiscated. You explained that: (1) the people carrying the firearms were not prohibited from possessing firearms under Federal law, (2) the people had apparently traveled directly, without any interruption in the transportation, to the airports from other States where they legally could possess firearms, (3) their firearms and ammunition were secured in accordance with all applicable regulations for airline travel, and (4) they were flying to other States or countries where they could legally possess firearms.

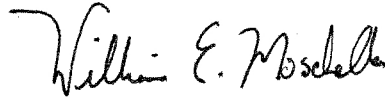
You then asked if TSA agrees that section 926A enables these travelers to possess the firearms legally in the New York airports and if so, if TSA would inform local police and prosecutors about this provision of the GCA. We appreciate your bringing this issue to our attention. The Department of Justice agrees that the provisions of section 926A apply to the situation set forth above assuming: (1) the person is traveling from somewhere he lawfully may possess and carry a firearm; (2) en route to the airport the firearm is unloaded and not accessible from the passenger compartment of his car; (3) the person transports the firearm directly from his

The Honorable Don Young
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vehicle to the airline check-in desk without any interruption in the transportation; and (4) while carrying the firearm to the check-in desk it is unloaded and in a locked container. This interpretation reflects the apparent congressional intent in enacting this provision, while allowing State and local law enforcement to continue to enforce their firearms laws aggressively to promote public safety. We will inform the applicable law enforcement authorities of our interpretation of section 926A.

We trust this information responds to your inquiry. If we can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "William E. Moschella". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "W" and a stylized "M".

William E. Moschella
Assistant Attorney General