



MEMORANDUM

Date: September 25, 2006

From: Sandra Cammaroto
Division Manager
Transportation Security Administration
Office of Screening of Persons with Disabilities

To: Passengers with Disabilities and Medical Conditions Using Air Transportation

Subj: Changes in Allowances for Persons with Disabilities at Airport Security
Checkpoints

One of the primary goals of the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) is to provide the highest level of security and customer service to all who pass through our screening checkpoints. Our current policies and procedures focus on ensuring that all passengers, regardless of their personal situations and needs, are treated equally and with the dignity, respect, and courtesy they deserve. Although every person and item must be screened before entering each sterile area, it is the manner in which the screening is conducted that is most important.

In order to achieve that goal, TSA has established a program for screening of persons with disabilities and their associated equipment, mobility aids, and devices. Our program covers all categories of disabilities (mobility, hearing, visual, and hidden). As part of that program, we established a coalition of over 60 disability-related groups and organizations to help us understand the concerns of persons with disabilities and medical conditions. These groups have assisted TSA with integrating the unique needs of persons with disabilities into our airport operations.

The purpose of this advisement is to provide those with disabilities and medical conditions with changes related to the ban on liquids, aerosols, and gels effective Tuesday, September 26.

Since the initial total ban on liquids, gels and aerosols took effect on August 10, we have learned enough from the UK investigation to say with confidence that small, travel size liquids are safe to bring through security checkpoints in limited numbers. We are confident in our increased security measures throughout the airport. Therefore,

passengers can purchase drinks in the secure boarding area and bring them aboard their flights.

The US and UK have continued to work closely together and have shared technical and threat information with partners in Canada and the European Union. These measures are being simultaneously adopted in partnership with the Canadian government, and the EU is also considering these measures.

The needs for the changes are to support the sustainability of the security system. We are working with the airlines and airports to make these changes. The aviation sector continues to operate at Homeland Security threat level Orange or high and will remain so for the foreseeable future. It is unlikely that further adjustments to the ban on liquids, gels and aerosols will be made in the near future.

There are two changes: we are adjusting the current ban on liquids, aerosols and gels to allow travelers to carry **travel-size toiletries (3 ounce or less) in ONE, QUART-SIZE, clear plastic, sealable bag** through security checkpoints. In addition, travelers can now bring beverages and other items purchased in the secure boarding area on-board the aircraft.

We are continuing to permit prescription liquid medications and other liquids needed by persons with disabilities and medical conditions. This includes:

- all prescription and over-the-counter medications (liquid, gel, and aerosol), including KY jelly, eye drops, and **saline solution for medicinal purposes;**
- liquids (to include water, juice, or **liquid nutrition**) or gels for passengers with a disability or medical condition;
- life support and life sustaining liquids (bone marrow, blood products, transplant organs);
- items used to augment the body for medical or cosmetic reasons (e.g. mastectomy products, prosthetic breasts, bras or shells) containing gels, saline solution, or other liquids; and
- gels or frozen liquids needed to cool disability or medically related items used by persons with disabilities or medical conditions.

Passengers with disabilities and medical conditions can choose to put their small bottles/items of liquid medication in the one quart sealable bag (mixed with toiletries) without the need to declare these items. However, if the liquid medications are in volumes larger than 3 ozs each, they may not be placed in the quart-size bag and must be declared to a Transportation Security Officer. A declaration can be made verbally, in writing, or by a person's companion, caregiver, interpreter, or family member. Declared liquid medications and other liquids for disabilities and medical conditions must be kept separate from all other property submitted for x-ray screening.

It is recommended (not required) that passengers bring along any supporting documentation (ID cards, letter from doctor, etc.) regarding their medication needs. It is recommended, not required, that the label on prescription medications match the passengers boarding pass. If the name on prescription medication label does not match

the name of the passenger, the passenger should expect to explain why to the security officers. To ensure a smooth screening process, passengers are encouraged to limit quantities to what is needed for the duration of the flight.

Passengers will still be required to remove their shoes as part of the screening process, however, persons with disabilities, medical conditions, and prosthetic devices **DO NOT** have to remove their shoes. Those who keep their shoes on will be subjected to additional screening that includes a visual/physical and explosive trace detection sampling of their footwear while the footwear remains on their feet.

Lastly, TSA's checkpoint security screening procedures for persons with disabilities and medical conditions have not changed as a result of the current threat situation. All disability-related equipment, aids, and devices continue to be allowed through security checkpoints once cleared through screening.

Disability and medically related items permitted beyond the checkpoint include: wheelchairs; scooters; crutches; canes; walkers; prosthetic devices; casts; support braces; support appliances; service animals; any and all diabetes related medication, equipment, and supplies; orthopedic shoes; exterior medical devices; assistive/adaptive equipment; augmentation devices; ostomy supplies; medications and associated supplies; hearing aids; cochlear implants; **tools for wheelchair disassembly/reassembly**; personal supplemental oxygen; CPAP machines; **respirators**; CO2 personal oxygen concentrators; baby apnea monitors; Braille note takers; slate and stylus; tools for prosthetic devices; and any other disability-related equipment and associated supplies.

For additional information on transportation security:

Overall guidance to travelers with disabilities is located on the web site of the Department of Homeland Security's Transportation Security Administration at: <http://www.tsa.gov>. This guidance includes disability/medical conditions specific tips.

If you have additional concerns or questions you can also contact TSA's Call Center at 1-866-289-9673 or by email at tsa-contactcenter@dhs.gov

For concerns about potential civil rights violations, you can contact TSA's Office of Civil Rights at 1-877-336-4872, TTY 800-877-8339 or by email at tsa-contactcenter@dhs.gov

Warmly,



Sandra Cammaroto