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Security at Guernsey & Alderney Airports

A guide for all matters relating to security screening

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One of the most visible aspects of the security process is making sure our passengers do not take on-board aircraft prohibited items, a task that inevitably adds time to your journey through the airport and onto your flight. Knowing what is allowed and what is not allowed before you arrive and allowing yourself, plenty of time to follow all the security procedures when you get to Guernsey or Alderney Airports will save you time, inconvenience, and make your journey more enjoyable.

Please follow our tips:

- **Have only your boarding card ready for inspection.** Passports and other identity documents are not required at the point of entering the security screening area.
- **Have all your toiletries, aftershaves, perfumes, and cosmetics (in containers of 100ml or less) in a transparent one litre re-sealable plastic bag for security staff to X-ray separately.** Make sure you are carrying a plastic bag containing your liquids and not in your hand luggage before you get to security.
- Remove coats, jackets, any large items of jewellery and belts. These will be screened separately while you walk through the security archway.
- Please remove your laptop and tablet computers and any other large electrical items from your hand baggage to be X-rayed separately prior to having your boarding card checked by security staff. Should you leave any large electrical items in your hand luggage when you pass through security will result in your bag being hand searched.
- You may also be asked to remove your shoes before going through the security archway.
- All passengers flying into or out of the UK should ensure any electronic devices carried in hand luggage are sufficiently charged so that they can be turned on if required. If your device does not switch on or runs out of power, you may not be allowed to take it on to the aircraft.
- All passengers who need extra assistance with their journey through the airport are strongly encouraged to book such assistance at the time of booking their flight. A sunflower lanyard for hidden disabilities is also available from the Airport Information Desk.

What can I take through security?

With a little preparation, there is a lot you can do to make sure your journey through airport security is as quick and hassle-free as possible. Security is vitally important in air travel, and making sure passengers only bring on board appropriate items is one of our biggest responsibilities. **Knowing what is allowed and what is not allowed before you arrive could save you, and other passengers, time, and inconvenience.**

You are welcome to take drinks in cans, bottles, plastic containers, and cartons, **but these cannot be over 100ml. They also need to be carried in a transparent, resealable, airtight bag. The size of the bag must be no larger than 20cm x 20cm and is restricted to one per person.** Remember, once through security you can buy drinks in departures. Drinks that are open or you are consuming prior to security cannot be carried through, and must be fully consumed or disposed of using the facilities provided.

You can carry fruit, vegetables, soft cheese and all solid foods including butter, but not margarines and spreads, in your hand baggage. However, foods in sauces or with a high liquid content (such as sauces, pastes, soups, and stews) need to go in the same transparent bag as any liquids, creams, gels and pastes. The size of container must not exceed 100ml, regardless of the amount contained inside. Jams, honey, and other preserves, are also subject to these restrictions.

For baby products, only carry what you need for the trip. Wet wipes and powdered baby food are fine, but baby milk, liquid, gel, or paste, will be subject to additional security screening. All baby food or food of special dietary nature (e.g. coeliac, lactose-free,) will be subject to additional security screening. When bringing your own pushchairs, prams, or buggies, you will need to lift your child out during the X-ray checks. You can take infants' car seats on to the plane, but please liaise with your airline, as you may need to have it carried in the aircraft hold.

At the airport security checkpoint, you will be asked to remove large electronic equipment (tablets and laptops) from your hand baggage to be screened separately. Digital cameras and mobile phones can stay in your hand baggage or jacket to be X-rayed. You can also bring gas hair tongs, **but you cannot carry any spare gas refills in your hold or hand baggage.**

You can take solid deodorants, lipsticks, brushes, combs, and toothbrushes on to the aircraft. Disposable contact lenses (in sealed packaging) are also allowed, as are non-disposable lenses with a small amount of solution (remember the less than 100ml container limit still applies). Only razors where the blade is fully and permanently enclosed and razor cartridges are allowed in your hand baggage.

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The following products must be in containers of less than 100ml, and must be placed into a transparent, resealable, airtight bag (measuring no more than 20cm x 20cm). Only one bag is permitted per person. The contents must fit completely inside the bag so it can be sealed along with any liquids, creams, gels and pastes: Hairspray and other aerosol items, creams, roll-on deodorants, sun-tanning products, lip-gloss or lip balms, liquid soap, toothpaste, mascara, and contact lens solution.

Cigarettes and other tobacco products are allowed in your hand baggage. Matches and lighters are not allowed in hand or checked in baggage. You may take a single butane lighter or a box of safety matches on board the aircraft, but only if carried on your person. Zippo lighters are also allowed as your one lighter. Smoking of cigarettes and e-cigarettes is not permitted inside the terminal building, the airside environment, or on the aircraft. Ballpoint pens, rollerball pens, gel pens, and pencils are allowed, as are fountain pens with a single open cartridge in use, but any refills cannot exceed 100ml and must be included in your one transparent, resealable, airtight bag.

Tennis racquets (or table tennis bats), snooker, pool or billiard cues, and fishing rods are allowed as hand baggage.

Medicines and medical equipment

Liquid medicines cannot exceed 100ml and must be kept in the one transparent, re-sealable bag. There is no limit for powder or tablets. If your medical needs mean you must carry more, you will need approval from your airline. Always carry your prescription with you, or a written statement from your doctor, consultant, or a medical practitioner. All medicines including those for children are subject to additional security screening. Insulin, EpiPen, hypodermic needles, and other medicines must be tested and verified by the passenger.

Please check with your airline about your medical requirements and needs before travelling. If you have a genuine medical condition (supported by a letter or certificate from your doctor, consultant or medical practitioner) there should be no problem with taking medical items and other such items on board the aircraft. However, please ensure you get the consent of the airline with whom you are travelling before arriving at the airport to ensure you do not experience any problems at security screening.

Please pack any equipment you need responsibly to minimise the likelihood of security staff incurring puncture wounds. Please notify the security staff that your hand baggage contains your equipment when you present it for screening.

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Inhalers are allowed in hand baggage, **but you must carry spare canisters as hold baggage only**. For essential medical equipment, you will need prior approval from your airline, unless it fits in your hand baggage, clearly marked as 'essential medical equipment'.

Passengers who need to carry an insulin pump should not have the items security scanned, these need to be hand searched instead. Furthermore, any insulin pumps carried by passengers as spares should not be screened using X-ray machines. Hand searching by security staff will be used instead.

Passengers with any medical devices should carry a Medical Device Card (see appendix 1) prior to travel. This can act as a reminder to security officers that alternative processes to screening by security scanners or X-ray, must be undertaken. **Please note the card is not intended to act as a medical document or certificate to provide evidence of the passenger's medical condition.**

If passengers have a hidden disability, they are strongly encouraged to get a sunflower lanyard from the Guernsey Airport Information Desk in the terminal building.

The following items are forbidden in hand baggage

Toy or replica guns (including water pistols), firearms of any description, ammunition of any description, catapults or slingshots, razor blades, darts, tools, sports bats, and clubs, including baseball and softball bats, clubs and batons, such as billy clubs, blackjacks, and night sticks, and martial arts equipment. Knives and scissors with a sharp or pointed blade and/or blades longer than 6cm (round-ended, blunt scissors and knives less than 6cm are permitted however).

Hypodermic syringes (unless for medical reasons), items that could be used as a potential weapon, hiking/walking poles. Any hiking or walking pole that has a pointed or sharp end cannot be carried in hand luggage. This includes poles that have a rubber cover, which can be removed exposing a sharp point. Rubber rounded end hiking/walking poles will be permitted.

It will be the final decision of the duty manager at Security whether the item is allowed to be permitted as hand luggage or not. If you have any doubts prior to entering security, then please check the item in as hold luggage. This is not a definitive or exhaustive list, and if in doubt please check with your airline before you are due to travel.

The following items are forbidden anywhere on the aircraft. Party poppers, acids, poisons, flammable liquids, explosives, matches or lighters (except one on your person), bleach, incapacitating sprays, ignitable gas devices, compressed gas, and compressed air.

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Books, puzzles, games and stickers can be taken on board the aircraft. Hatboxes, sports equipment, and wedding dresses all constitute an item of hand baggage and must fit within the baggage size and weight restrictions. You can bring musical instruments in addition to your hand baggage allowance. Please check with your airline if in doubt.

Security scanners: (currently not used at Guernsey Airport)

Scanners provide an additional layer of security. They are a completely safe and extremely capable method of screening passengers. The scanning system uses millimetre wave imaging to locate objects on a person that are concealed under clothing. Millimetre wave imaging offers a superior approach for screening people compared to existing methods such as metal detectors. It works by bouncing millimetre waves off an individual's skin to produce an outline image of the person's body, showing any concealed, potentially dangerous objects. The operator does not review the image, as the system has an Automatic Threat Recognition and Detection feature. The scanner displays an indication of possible threat areas on a 'gingerbread man' image. The security staff use this information to determine if a physical search is required. Images taken are analysed digitally within the equipment, so the millimetre wave image of the passenger is never seen, stored, printed or transmitted. The scanner is deliberately programmed so that no image can be retained, printed or transmitted.

Hand baggage rules:

Our general advice is to carry the very minimum of hand baggage, make sure you arrive early at the airport and allow plenty of time for security screening. Please check with your airline for the quantity and permitted dimensions of hand baggage that are allowed onto the aircraft prior to travel. Rules on hand luggage can change at any time.

Your hand luggage must not contain any sharp items. You may only carry small amounts of liquid, gels, creams and pastes - in containers no bigger than 100ml – and all these items must be inside one transparent resealable bag. The maximum bag size is 20cm x 20cm and this will be screened separately at security. You cannot take drinks through security, but once you are through security you can purchase them from our food and beverage outlets, or refill empty bottles using a special water dispenser in departures.

Security Frequently Asked Questions

To help you with any other queries about security, here is a list of frequently asked questions that may help you.

I am travelling with children – are the rules the same for me?

You are allowed an additional item of hand baggage even when travelling with a child who has no seat assigned to them, but do check restrictions with your airline. Passengers can take buggies to the gate. These items will need to be screened by security staff through the machine X-ray. You may carry milk powder. There are no limits for powder formula. Water is available in shops or from a tap after security. Passengers can carry ready-to-drink cartons of formula and self-prepared milk, providing it is in a baby bottle. These items do not have to be under 100ml, nor be carried in a transparent bag. However, the amount must be just sufficient for your trip and will be subject to separate security screening. The same rules apply for containers of baby food. You should check with your airline before you travel if you can take baby car seats through security for use on the plane, or if they need to be checked-in as hold baggage.

I need to travel with medicines/medical equipment - are the rules the same?

Passengers are allowed to take essential medicines sufficient for their trip. Amounts under 100ml should be placed in a transparent, resealable plastic bag, with any other liquids. If the container is larger than 100ml, it should be presented at security for x-ray inspection. There is no limit on the amount but all medicines will be subject to additional security screening and you will be asked to provide proof such as a doctor, consultant, or practitioner's letter. Passengers may carry non-prescription tablets (e.g. paracetamol). However, as with all other medicines they should be properly marked with a professionally printed label identifying the medication and manufacturer's name or pharmaceutical label. Any other medical item you may need during your flight – including insulin and needles, asthma inhalers, EpiPen, angina sprays can be carried, but only the amount necessary for your trip. The rest must be put in hold baggage.

If you are concerned about the effect of the temperature in the aircraft hold on your medicine, you should speak to your airline before you are due to travel. Items such as blood pressure monitors can be carried in hand baggage, as long as they fit within airline size limits. Spare contact lenses can be carried in hand baggage, but the packets must be sealed and only sufficient for you need during the journey. The rest must be carried in your hold baggage and any contact lens solution must be in a 100ml container. Homeopathic medicines will be subject to x-ray screening.

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I am still unclear about what I can/can't carry in hand luggage.

Solid cosmetics including lipsticks and powders are permitted. You can take items such as atomisers, cream, roll-on deodorants in containers up to 100ml, but these must be in a transparent, resealable, airtight bag. Only one bag per person is permitted. Electrical items such as mobiles, tablets, and laptops are permitted, as long as they comply with the size restrictions. Spare batteries are also allowed, however, these items may be screened separately. You can carry gas hair tongs with one gas cartridge in your hand baggage, but check with your airline before you travel as some airlines may restrict these items. If carrying jewellery, some items could be classed, as 'sharp objects' so will not be allowed in hand baggage. House keys and car keys can be included in hand baggage, but must go through the x-ray machine.

A musical instrument carried in its case can be taken into the cabin in addition to the hand baggage allowance, but you cannot put any other items in the instrument case. It is recommended you check with your airline before you are due to travel. Some musical accessories such as percussion mallets or wire brushes for drums will not be allowed in your hand baggage.

Walking/hiking poles with a sharp or pointed end will not be allowed to be carried through as hand baggage. These include poles, which have a rubber cover that can be removed to expose a sharp point. Rubber rounded end walking/hiking poles are permitted as hand baggage. Please do note that it will be the duty security manager's final decision if the item is allowed as carry-on luggage or not. If you have any doubts then please check the item in as hold luggage.

If you are worried about special items which normally would not comply with the size restrictions, a wedding dress for example, contact your airline to discuss special arrangements before you are due to travel. Small non-toxic gas cylinders, such as those used for artificial limbs or in lifejackets, may be carried in hand baggage, provided they comply with the size restrictions. Nevertheless, you should check with your airline before you are due to travel.

Sports equipment can be carried in hand baggage provided it fits within the bag size restrictions and complies with the rules on sharp objects. Tennis racquets (or table tennis bats), snooker, pool, or billiard cues, and fishing rods can be carried as hand luggage. Scuba diving tanks cannot be carried anywhere on the aircraft.

I am a photographer/filmmaker and I am worried about putting my film and camera through the x-ray machines.

Our X-ray machines will not harm film or equipment. Our hand-luggage X-ray inspection systems are safe for all normal film types (up to and including ISO 400) as well as for digital storage media. Specialist film (ISO 800 and above) can sometimes be affected, but the effects are barely noticeable to the naked eye and do not become clearly visible until film is exposed around 32 times. However, we can make special arrangements for photographers carrying professional film (ISO 800 and above). Contact your airline before you are due to travel.

What is a liquid?

We classify any liquid, gel, cream, or paste as restricted items and this includes drinks, water, toiletries, perfumes, cosmetics as well as items that contain high volumes of liquids (soups, yoghurts etc.) it also applies to spreads, jams, and preserves. If you are unsure, please check with your airline before you are due to travel or speak to the security staff prior to entering the search area.

How many liquids under 100ml can I carry?

You can carry as many items that fit in to the clear plastic bag, but this bag must seal and the limit is one bag per person.

Is it the amount of liquid or the container size that is measured?

It is the container size we measure, regardless of how much liquid it contains, and it must state the capacity of the container.

Travelling with duty-free alcohol or perfumes?

We accept some oversized liquids purchased as duty or tax-free with certain restrictions. It must be in a clear sealed, tamper proof bag with the receipt inside of the bag. If you are unsure, please contact your airline. If in doubt, ensure your duty-free purchases are checked in as hold luggage to the hold of the aircraft.

Do I have to remove shoes/jewellery etc.?

By removing shoes and metallic jewellery, you greatly reduce the chance of activating our walk through scanners, thereby speeding up your journey through the security process. We advise that any high value items you remove be placed into your hand baggage.

Can I request to be searched privately?

Yes, anyone can request a private search either for themselves or for their hand baggage. If you have any condition that you may wish to be dealt with privately or if you are carrying items that you do not wish to be searched in a public area. If you require a private search, please ask security staff prior to any search commencing and we will arrange this for you. An additional security staff member will be present during a private search. You are welcome to have a travelling companion be there with you. The Airport will insist upon this if a child under the age of 16 years.

Once I go through security, can I exit departures?

Once through security, there is no way to exit, so please ensure you are ready to wait for your flight without the need to exit again. You will be guided through into arrivals should your flight be cancelled at the last minute, or a security related incident require this to occur. There is no facility to smoke or use e-cigarettes once through security and into departures.

What if I need assistance through security?

If you need special assistance at the airport, please make sure you have booked it in advance through your airline before you are due to travel up to 48 hours in advance of travelling, please contact your airline directly or via your travel agent to pre-book assistance. Once booked you will be met on your arrival by airport staff, who will take you to the check-in desk, from there, you will be assisted through the airport by airline staff. You should also tell your airline if you intend to take your own aids such as a wheelchair or mobility scooter. A sunflower lanyard for hidden disabilities is also available from the Airport Information Desk.

Are there any facilities to eat, sit, smoke and vape once through security?

Once through security, departures offers outlets to sit, eat, and drink. There is also free Wi-Fi, duty-free shopping, and toilets. Smoking or using e-cigarettes is not permitted anywhere within the terminal building and there is no facility to smoke or vape once through security.

I have a pacemaker - is this a problem?

If you have a pacemaker, or any other medical device that may be affected by walking through an archway metal detector, please advise the security staff prior to going through our scanning equipment. Please ensure you have your medical card or certificate to state you are wearing a sensitive medical device and alternative arrangements will be implemented.

Christmas and Festive Packing Tips

Packing for your Christmas or festive flight is the same as any other trip, but you may be looking to carry a few extra items. Please follow the guidance bellow.

- **Do not wrap presents you are carrying in your hand luggage as security staff may need to see them and will ask you to unwrap the items.**
- Party poppers cannot be carried in either your hand or hold luggage. Christmas crackers must go in your hold luggage. They have to be in their original, unopened packaging and you must advise the check-in staff that you are carrying them. If you have checked-in online, please attend the check-in desk to advise the airline representative.
- Gift sets usually contain liquids of over 100ml, so pack them in your hold luggage or buy them at the airport duty-free outlet after clearing security procedures.
- Snow globes do not usually state the liquid content and will not be permitted as hand baggage, so must be packed into your hold luggage.
- Some children's toys replicate prohibited items (e.g. toy guns or water pistols) so these must be placed in your hold luggage. Please note even if the item is wrapped it will not be permitted to travel in the aircraft cabin.
- Condiments and other Christmas goods come under the liquid rules, therefore any liquid, gel, cream or paste over 100ml must go in your hold luggage. These items include jars such as cranberry sauce, pickles, mincemeat, jam, marmalade and other jellies, tubs of clotted cream, custard, and brandy sauce.

Appendix 1 - Medical Device Card

Medical Device Awareness Card – Passenger

- Don't forget to bring your medical evidence (e.g. letter from a medical practitioner) to confirm your medical device such as an insulin pump or Continuous Glucose Monitoring system (CGMs). Have this ready to show the Security Officer, along with this card.
- Make the airport Security Officer aware of the device, and exactly what it is and where it is located.
- If you are carrying a spare medical device, remove it from your cabin bag before the x-ray and let the Security Officer know.
- And do contact the airport if you have any concerns or queries before you travel: note that screening equipment and processes may differ from airport to airport.
- Please check with your return airport (if outside the UK) on their arrangements for screening medical devices.



Source: UK Civil Aviation Authority/Airport Operators Association.