

TSA Carry-on Regulations Update — August 4, 2007

As of **August 4, 2007**, the TSA is requiring travelers to remove full-size game consoles (examples include Playstation, X-box, and Nintendo), CD and DVD players from their carry-on bags for separate X-ray screening at security checkpoints. They will be handled the same way laptops and larger video cameras (that use cassettes) have been for some time. The TSA states that "Small electronic items, such as cell phones, MP3 players, iPods and portable video game systems do not have to be removed from their carrying cases." Bear in mind, however, that since this is a new regulation, there may be some initial confusion or misinterpretation on the part of the TSA inspectors. Be prepared to remove any and all electronics from your carry-on bag, and allow a little extra time for screening.

Also new as of August 4th, the TSA has relaxed the ban on lighters in carry-on luggage: "In an effort to concentrate resources on detecting explosive threats, TSA will no longer ban common lighters in carry-on luggage as of **August 4, 2007**. Torch lighters remain banned in carry-ons.

Lifting the lighter ban is consistent with TSA's risk-based approach to aviation security. First and foremost, lighters no longer pose a significant threat. Freeing security officers up from fishing for 22,000 lighters every day (the current number surrendered daily across the country) enables them to focus more on finding explosives, using behavior recognition, conducting random screening procedures and other measures that increase complexity in the system, deterring terrorists. The U.S. is the only country in the world to ban lighters – all other nations, including Israel and the U.K., do not."

In addition, the TSA has modified the regulations on carrying breast milk through security checkpoints: "Mothers flying with, and now without, their child will be permitted to bring breast milk in quantities greater than three ounces as long as it is declared for inspection at the security checkpoint.

Breast milk is in the same category as liquid medications. Now, a mother flying without her child will be able to bring breast milk through the checkpoint, provided it is declared prior to screening."

Travelers will not be asked to taste the milk to prove it is not a liquid explosive