

Re: TSA and Airline Security (some relevant carry-on guitar content)

Re: TSA and Airline Security (some relevant carry-on guitar content)

Source:

<http://newsgroups.derkeiler.com/Archive/Rec/rec.music.makers.guitar.acoustic/2006-09/msg00140.html>

- *From:* "Geezer" <NOSPAM@xxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Sat, 2 Sep 2006 13:49:43 -0400
-

"Steve Hawkins" <res0pf02@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
<news:Xns98326865170FFres0pf02verizonnet@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

NASA <nasa@xxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in
[news:DIgKg.7729\\$Mz3.3263@fed1read07:](news:DIgKg.7729$Mz3.3263@fed1read07:)

I spent a week in Jordan, Egypt and Israel last week and departed from Ben Gurion airport in Tel Aviv Wednesday. Of interest is that Israeli passengers (Delta, BA, El Al) are not required to have their bags inspected before taking them to the counter for check-in. I've noticed this during my repeated trips to Israel. Not a 'negative' observation, just interesting to me as a frequent visitor.

After my bags and lap top went through some kind of a dumpster sized belt-driven machine, all items were tagged and I was sent to secondary (as are all other non-Israeli travelers). Perhaps the 25-30 in/out Israeli Visa stamps on my passport qualified me, I don't know why actually, but the young lass at secondary told me I was "Fine, go to the check-in counter". My travel companion was not as fortunate. it took him 45 minutes at secondary and, a 3rd inspection station (interesting since he didn't go to Jordan or Egypt as he was worried the entry/exit stamps in his US passport would cause grief at the airport.

I observed Israeli and foreign passengers at the security belt station (after checking in at the counter) put bottles of water on the belt with bags, coats, etc. We did not have to remove our shoes or belts or any bag contents when we reached the magnetic arch.

Delta served dinner and breakfast on the flight with metal spoons and forks but plastic knives (on El Al, the dinner ware is all metal). I think the plastic knives are sharper than the metal ones. I am amused by the many different large glass bottles of wine on the servings carts (if a disruptive passenger needed a weapon, Voila!) that are occasionally unattended while the steward/stewardess leaves the cart

Re: TSA and Airline Security (some relevant carry-on guitar content)

to get ice or another bottle.

Once in the secured terminal area, I saw a chap with an acoustic guitar (in a soft case) over his shoulder so, there wasn't any problems carrying the guitar through security. I brought a soldier a Fender electric in a soft case the previous year on AA and BA with no problem but recently witnessed the purser at the entrance to an AA plane in Sao Paulo deny a youngster trying to enter with a small (not jumbo) soft case and guitar. The flight was not over booked and there was substantial room in the closet near my seat (no one used the overhead by my seat on the 777).

When the Delta arrived in Atlanta, checked baggage was picked up, taken past Customs and rechecked and then, back through security, TSA security that is. What a miserable group of mopes and unimaginative, power tripping, minimum wage earning federal staff these humanoids are. Off with the shoes, off with the sandals, off with the flip-flops, sport coats, jackets, sweaters, etc. The Brit in front of me had to stop (our line) while his roll-aboard was re-examined by a TSA supervising clone.

They opened it (further delaying the line) to find a small prescription container and eye-drops. The TSA 'noid told the traveler he had to go back to baggage and check in the roll aboard with the pills and eye drops or, she would dispose of the 'contraband' and let him pass. He protested he just got off a flight with his meds, she said if he didn't not decide there and then, she would "axe her supervisor to take him to secondary for being disruptive".

Enough said. He gave up his meds and went on his way. Others behind me were told to take the bottles of wine, perfumes, etc., they may have purchased on flight or at the Duty Free back to baggage and check them in or, be prepared to dispose of the articles at security.

After I passed through TSA with no incident although I knew I had eye drips, chap stick and some prescription meds in my briefcase I saw several people in the Atlanta secured terminal area with small soft case/guitars strapped over their shoulders. So, a ban on guitar carry-ons has apparently not been announced by TSA.

Before boarding the Delta flight from Atlanta to San Diego, the ticket attendant announced to passengers in coach they should go to the food court and buy snacks or meals unless they wanted to buy a snack on-board. However, she also announced if they purchased anything to drink in the food courts, they would have to consume the drink before boarding as no liquid was allowed on board the flight.

There is no bag inspection or search before boarding so I suspect all of the passengers that purchased bottles of wine, booze, perfumes, etc. in the terminal stores and kept these 'dangerous' items in their carry-on bags must have been unidentified threats to the rest of the passengers on that particular flight.

Re: TSA and Airline Security (some relevant carry-on guitar content)

So, as I try my damned best to avoid reaching the 4,000,000 milestone on AA by flying on other airlines, I have reached the conclusion the airline's have exhibited various levels of non-conforming security policies, US airport TSA security employs marginally intelligent staff who are at least under CCTV security observation (rather than down in the baggage areas riffling our property or checked in baggage), and continue to portray a resemblance of intelligence. false sense of security and screwing the traveling public.

TSA, Let US be Your Security Condom should be printed on all TSA shirts.

Just a morning rant from a tired traveler on a Saturday morning.

IMHO, your attitude sucks. If you don't read and obey the security briefs, you get what you deserve.

Perscription meds that are liquid and other meds are allowed in your carry-on if you show the perscription label with your name on it. Eye drop bottles are too small, so the label is applied to the outside of the box. I always take the box with the bottle inside when I travel. It sounds like your guy couldn't prove they were perscribed meds.

The days of no hassle flying are long gone so get used to it.

Steve Hawkins

Steve,

I have to side with NASA on this one. As a business traveller quickly approaching a half million frequent flier miles, I've seen it all. I particularly agree with his observations about American Airlines (the absolute worst in my experience) and the minimum wage power-tripping TSA mopes in Atlanta.

I've flown all over the world and have to admit that the TSA personel in the good ole' USA are without a doubt the worst. (With the exception of one crew I met in LAX on a recent return from China...they were running the absolute smoothest operating security checkpoint I've ever been through. They actually made it a pleasurable experience).

Geezer

.