



## **SECURITY CONTROL GUIDELINES FOR SCREENING LIQUIDS, GELS AND AEROSOLS RECOMMENDED AS INTERIM MEASURES BY ICAO**

### **1. PROPOSED SECURITY MEASURES FOR THE CONTROL OF LIQUIDS, GELS AND AEROSOLS**

1.1 All liquids, gels and aerosols (LAGs)<sup>1</sup> should be handled in accordance with ICAO's recommendations as following:

- a) All LAGs should be carried in containers with a capacity not greater than 100 ml each (or the equivalent in other volumetric measurements, e.g. fluid ounces);
- b) Any LAGs carried in a container larger than 100 ml are not to be accepted, even if the container is only part-filled;
- c) Containers<sup>2</sup> with LAGs should be placed in a transparent re-sealable plastic bag<sup>3</sup> of a maximum capacity not exceeding 1 litre. The containers must fit comfortably within the transparent plastic bag, which should be completely closed;
- d) Each passenger is permitted to carry only one such bag which is to be presented separately for screening;
- e) All conventional security controls and checks, including random hand searches of passengers and cabin bags, are applicable;
- f) Flight crew in uniform and on duty the day(s) of the journey are exempted from these restrictions; and
- g) Exceptions are allowed for medications, baby milk/foods and special dietary or other medical requirements as enumerated in paragraph<sup>2</sup> of this document.

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<sup>1</sup> For the purpose of this document, liquids, gels and aerosols are referred to as LAGs and include but are not limited to: water and other drinks, soups, syrups, jams, stews, sauces and pastes; foods in sauces or containing a high liquid content; creams, lotions, cosmetics and oils; perfumes; sprays; gels including hair and shower gels; contents of pressurized containers, including shaving foam, other foam and deodorants; pastes including toothpaste; liquid-solid mixtures; mascara; lip gloss or lip balm; and any item of similar consistency at room temperature.

<sup>2</sup> Empty containers with a capacity greater than 100 ml are permitted.

<sup>3</sup> Indicative size of the 1 Litre re-sealable plastic bag: 20.5 cm x 20.5 cm or 25 cm x 15 cm, or equivalent

1.2 LAGs, in any volume, purchased at airport retail outlets or on board aircraft during the day(s) of the journey should not be allowed through security screening points unless they:

- a) are carried in a Security Tamper-Evident Bag (STEB); and
- b) have been protected from unlawful interference by a process of supply chain security, including the application of appropriate security measures at manufacturers and warehouses, during the delivery process for both LAGs and STEBs from the warehouse to the airport retail outlets and aircraft outlets, and while in stock/on display at those outlets.

1.3 ICAO's security guidelines, available in the ICAO Security Manual for Safeguarding Civil Aviation Against Acts of Unlawful Interference (Doc 8973) may be adopted for the development of specific measures and incorporated, if needed, into the relevant airport and airline security programmes, regulated agent regimes and quality control measures. A set of minimum security principles for manufacturers and retailers of LAGs and STEBs is in paragraph 5 of this document.

1.4 A harmonized validation template will be available on the ICAO AVSECNET<sup>4</sup> secure website for use by States. Ensuring compliance with the security measures applied to LAGs and STEBs within a State is a matter for the State concerned. Recognition of the robustness of LAGs and STEBs security in another State (or States) could be conducted via bilateral, multilateral or other arrangements as appropriate, which could include on-site verification

## **2. EXEMPTIONS FOR MEDICATIONS AND SPECIAL DIETARY REQUIREMENTS, INCLUDING BABYFOODS**

### **2.1 Passengers**

2.1.1 Liquids, aerosols and gels of any kind carried in containers with a maximum volume of 100ml should be placed in the 1 litre bag. However exemptions may be granted for LAGs which cannot be so carried, but which are needed during the journey, either for essential medical purposes or to meet special and essential dietary needs. When required to do so, the passenger or staff member should provide proof of authenticity of the exempted liquid.

2.1.2 This paragraph describes procedures which airports and airlines should follow in order to establish whether LAGs claimed to be essential may be taken by passengers through search points. Persons may be sensitive about medicines they are carrying, and so will need similarly sensitive handling. If, having followed the procedures in this guidance, doubts remain about the provenance of a LAG, the person in question should be told that they cannot take it into the cabin of the aircraft. It follows that, since the LAG was regarded as essential, he or she should also be advised not to fly.

- a) **Journey:** The liquid is to be used during the journey refers to the journey of the person and so should not, per se, be linked to the length of the flight. A passenger may only be taking a one-hour flight, but may be taking medicine greater than 100ml. If the medicine is being carried in a container of more than 100 ml, whether or not it fits into the litre bag is irrelevant. He or she should be asked why the medicine is needed in this amount, and whether it could not be carried in the aircraft hold. Only if the responses give the necessary assurance should the LAG's carriage in the cabin be permitted.
- b) **Medical purposes:** Liquids required for medical purposes should be interpreted as meaning liquid medicines, both prescribed by a doctor and bought over-the-counter. In determining if medicine with a total volume of over 100 ml is indeed essential to be carried in the cabin, and that the amount being carried is no more than is necessary for the trip, the passenger should be questioned on the nature of the medicine; the reasons why it is claimed as essential; the dosage; and the frequency of dose necessary. However, in principle, derogations for over-the-counter medicines

(e.g. nose sprays, cough medicines, contact lens solution) should be more restrictive in the quantity of liquid that is permitted since these are not "life-or death" medicines. In addition, liquids that are not medicines but are used for medical purposes are permitted, examples of which include ice (if used to maintain the temperature of, for example, a transplant organ), blood or blood products, and even "normal" liquids if their use is justified on medical grounds (e.g. an autistic traveler that "needs" to have a particular brand of drink).

c) **Dietary needs:** Liquids as a special dietary need should be interpreted as meaning those foods without which the passenger's health is threatened. Examples include baby food (provided, of course, that a baby is traveling), or foods such as special diets for lactose-intolerant passengers, or gluten-intolerant passengers. Where the volume of baby food is deemed excessive for the length of the journey, it is not to be allowed through the screening point. Baby products may include: baby milk; sterilized water; baby juice; baby food in liquid, gel or paste form; and wet wipes.

d) **Proof of authenticity:** When requested to do so, the passenger should provide proof of authenticity of the exempted liquids. It should be established that the name on the label of the prescription medication matches the name on his/her boarding pass. Where the medication is non-prescription, a determination on reasonable amounts is required. Reasonable amounts include what is required for length of the flight taking into account possible delays and flight diversions. If doubts are felt about the quantity of liquid being carried by a passenger, or that the liquids are for medical purposes or special dietary needs, then a plausibility check should be performed. The passenger could be invited to sample the items or rub them on their skin to prove they are safe (hydrogen peroxide-based explosives are caustic, and thus could not be safely tasted or rubbed onto the skin). For medicine prescribed by a doctor, the passenger should be able to show that it is for his/her own use, for example by having their name on the label of the medicine or a note from a doctor. When verifying the proof of authenticity, the following should be taken into consideration:

- 1) A passenger should not be asked to taste their medication if the dosage/usage instruction or advice from their doctor indicates that it would be dangerous to do so;
- 2) Passenger should not be made to taste any medication, either their own or their child's, against their wishes;
- 3) For children's prescription medication, the accompanying adult passenger should not be asked to taste the medicine, verification should instead be sought through questioning;
- 4) If a container is marked in grams, it may be assumed that 100g corresponds to 100ml; and
- 5) Where a passenger has been asked to rub a small amount of the LAG onto their skin, the passenger's skin should be monitored for at least two minutes to see if a reaction occurs.

## **2.2 Airports Staff**

2.2.1 The personal items of airport staff entering a security restricted area and on board an aircraft (Le. beverages, perfumes, cosmetics, medications and other similar items) should be subjected to the same restrictions and exemptions as passengers. However, tools of the trade are exempt from LAGs restrictions. Tools of the trade are defined as articles in a person's possession which are required for the lawful purpose for which he or she is in the sterile area. Tools of the trade may include items such as cleaning products, sealants, degreasers, glues, paints and oils.

## **2.3 Exempt Persons**

2.3.1 The State may decide to exempt from LAGs restrictions (e.g. law enforcement officers and emergency personnel responding to a crisis).

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