

FAA/TSA Updates Baggage Restrictions

As a person connected to the U.S. knife and/or firearms industries, you could be the owner of various products that may be permitted in your checked baggage but be confiscated (or worse) from carry-on baggage. Anyone who has traveled by air in the past several months may have noticed either increased or decreased levels of security and/or inspection at airports you typically use. You may also have experienced different judgments about your possessions by different people at different airports.

We call this “discretion” and it has always been a fact of life in security and law enforcement. But even though the U.S. Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has begun to provide detailed lists of what is and is not permitted in checked and carry-on baggage, we will show you that their advisories on airline travel very clearly warn passengers that “discretion” exists. We will tell you what the current “rules” are but you should be prepared to face the reality that an individual security person at a U.S. airport ultimately decides what is “acceptable” or “dangerous” to them.

The information we provide here was published on the official TSA website as

“To ensure everyone’s security, the screener may determine that an item not on this chart is prohibited. In addition, the screener may also determine that an item on the permitted chart is dangerous and therefore may not be brought through the security checkpoint.”

of February 6, 2003. This information could be modified in the future. Before you travel, re-check the TSA website for current restrictions.

Be Prepared For Longer Inspection Lines at Airports

On January 29, 2003, United Airlines sent an email update to customers on “Changes at the Airport” that read in part “... The U.S. Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has begun implementing two changes at airports nationwide: screening 100% of all checked bags

and moving secondary screening from the gate to the lobby check point. With the changes, you will need to check-in and receive your boarding pass prior to going through security.”

United further cautions that the additional bag screening means you should arrive at the airport at least 60 minutes before flight departure if you are not checking bags and 90 minutes if you are checking bags.

What TSA Does ...

On the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) “Travelers” home page on their website, we find this short profile.

“The Department of Transportation (DOT) oversees consumer issues such as denied boarding, lost baggage, overbooking, ticketing, as well as statistics on on-time performance. The FAA is responsible for civil aviation safety, including developing safety regulations, and certifying pilots and aircraft. The FAA operates the nation’s air traffic control system and through the world wide web provides real-time flight delay information. The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) is responsible for security for all modes of transportation. Please visit the TSA’s web site at www.tsa.dot.gov for security-related information.” We visited that site and found this:

Permitted and Prohibited Items ...

Can I Take It With Me?

“Prohibited items are weapons, explosives, incendiaries, and include items that are seemingly harmless but may be used as weapons—the so-called “dual use” items. You may not bring these items to security checkpoints without authorization....

“What Happens to Prohibited Items? If you bring a prohibited item to the check-

Michigan district court case declares Kershaw “Speed Safe” model is not a switchblade

Waterford, Michigan — A Michigan jury decided that a defendant arrested for carrying a Kershaw “Speed Safe” Model #1560 was not in statutory violation of statute MCL 750.226a that prohibits carrying a “switchblade.” The defendant had all charges dismissed and the knife returned to him.

The case was in the Michigan District Court for the 51st Judicial District, Case

020062SM, decision rendered on January 21, 2003, in Waterford, MI.

“We’re pleased with the court decision,” Kershaw national sales manager Doug Flagg said. “Switchblades, by definition, are opened by pressing a button in the handle. Our ‘Speed Safe’ knives require that blade opening is started by fingers on the blade or on a thumb stud.”

FAA/TSA

point, you may be criminally and/or civilly prosecuted or, at the least, asked to rid yourself of the item. A screener and/or Law Enforcement Officer will make this determination, depending on what the item is and the circumstances. This is because bringing a prohibited item to a security checkpoint - even accidentally - is illegal.

“Your prohibited item may be detained for use in an investigation and, if necessary, as evidence in your criminal and/or civil prosecution. If permitted by the screener or Law Enforcement Officer, you may be allowed to: consult with the airlines for possible assistance in placing the prohibited item in checked baggage; withdraw with the item from the screening checkpoint at that time; make other arrangements for the item, such as taking it to your car; or, voluntarily abandon the item. Items that are voluntarily abandoned cannot be recovered and will not be returned to you.

“Please refer to the printable versions of the prohibited and permitted items list ..., where you will find a list of items that are permitted or prohibited in your carry-on or checked baggage. You should note that some items are allowed in your checked baggage, but not your carry-on. Also pay careful attention to the “Notes” included at the bottom of each section - they contain important information about restrictions.

“The prohibited and permitted items list is not intended to be all-inclusive and is updated as necessary. To ensure everyone’s security, the screener may determine that an item not on this chart is prohibited. In addition, the screener may also determine that an item on the permitted chart is dangerous and therefore may not be brought through the security checkpoint.

“The list of items applies to flights originating within the United States. Please check with your airline or travel agent for restrictions at destinations outside of the United States.”

We will now summarize that list and highlight the official “Notes” that seem pertinent.

Personal Items permitted in both carry-on and checked baggage:

Cigar Cutters, Corkscrews, Cuticle Cutters, Eyeglass Repair Tools (including screwdrivers), Eyelash Curlers, Knitting and Crochet Needles, Knives - round-bladed butter or plastic, Nail Clippers, Nail

Files, Personal care or toiletries aerosols - in limited quantities, Safety Razors, Scissors - plastic or metal with blunt tips, Toy Transformer Robots, Toy Weapons (if not realistic replicas), Tweezers, Umbrellas (allowed in carry-on baggage once they have been inspected to ensure that prohibited items are not concealed), Walking Canes (allowed in carry-on baggage once they have been inspected to ensure that prohibited items are not concealed).

Metal Scissors with pointed tips are NOT allowed in carry-on baggage but they are permitted in checked baggage.

Medication and Special Needs Devices permitted in both carry-on and checked baggage:

Braille Note-Taker, Slate and Stylus, Augmentation Devices, Diabetes-Related Supplies/Equipment, Nitroglycerine pills or spray for medical use, Prosthetic Device Tools and Appliances.

AKTI Advice ...
“Be a Smart Traveler.
If In Doubt,
Leave It Home.”

There is also additional language about inspections and all dispensers, syringes, pill containers and other supplies being marked with a “professionally printed label identifying the medication or manufacturer’s name or pharmaceutical label.”

Electronic Devices permitted in both carry-on and checked baggage:

Camcorders, Camera Equipment (screening equipment will damage your film; ask for hand inspection), Laptop Computers, Mobile Phones, Pagers, Personal Data Assistants.

Sharp Objects NOT permitted in carry-on baggage ... but permitted in checked baggage:

Box Cutters, Ice Axes/Ice Picks, Knives (any length and type except round-bladed, butter, and plastic cutlery), Meat Cleavers, Razor-Type Blades - such as box cutters, utility knives, razor blades not in a cartridge, but excluding safety razors, Sabers, Scissors - metal with pointed tips, Swords.

Note: Any sharp objects in checked baggage should be sheathed or securely wrapped to prevent injury to baggage handlers and inspectors.

Sporting Goods NOT permitted in carry-on baggage ... but permitted in checked baggage:

Baseball Bats, Bows and Arrows, Cricket Bats, Golf Clubs, Hockey Sticks, Lacrosse Sticks, Pool Cues, Ski Poles, Spear Guns.

Note: Any sharp objects in checked baggage should be sheathed or securely wrapped to prevent injury to baggage handlers and inspectors.

Guns and Firearms NOT permitted in carry-on baggage ... but permitted in checked baggage:

BB Guns, Compressed Air Guns, Firearms, Parts of Guns and Firearms, Pellet Guns, Realistic Replicas of Firearms, Starter Pistols.

Flare Guns, Gun Lighters, and Gun Powder are NOT permitted in either carry-on or checked bags.

Note: Check with your airline or travel agent to see if firearms are permitted in checked baggage on the airline you are flying. Ask about limitations or fees, if any, that apply. Firearms carried as checked baggage MUST be unloaded, packed in a locked hard-sided gun case, and declared to the airline at check-in. Only you, the passenger, may have the key or combination.

Tools NOT permitted in carry-on baggage...but permitted in checked baggage:

Axes and Hatchets, Cattle Prods, Crowbars, Hammers, Drills (including cordless portable power drills), Saws (including cordless portable power saws), Screwdrivers (except those in eyeglass repair kits), Tools (but not limited to wrenches and pliers), Wrenches and Pliers.

Note: Any sharp objects in checked baggage should be sheathed or securely wrapped to prevent injury to baggage handlers and inspectors.

Martial Arts/Self Defense Items NOT permitted in carry-on baggage ... but permitted in checked baggage:

Billy Clubs, Black Jacks, Brass Knuckles, Kubatons, Mace/Pepper Spray (One 118 ml. or 4 fl. Oz. container permitted in checked baggage provided it is equipped with a safety mechanism to prevent accidental discharge), Martial Arts Weapons, Night Sticks, Nunchakus, Stun Gun/Shocking Devices, Throwing Stars.

Note: Any sharp objects in checked baggage...

gage should be sheathed or securely wrapped to prevent injury to baggage handlers and inspectors.

Explosive Materials, Flammable Items, Disabling Chemicals and Other Dangerous Items NOT permitted in carry-on baggage ... NOT permitted in checked baggage:

Fireworks, Flares, Lighter Fluid, Strike-Anywhere Matches, Chlorine, Bleach, Spray paint and Tear Gas ... plus a wide variety of other incendiary products and hazardous devices are in this group.

No mention is made of cigarette lighters, but if it's a valuable one, AKTI suggests you leave it home and get some book matches once you land.

Once again, we repeat a key phrase from the TSA's own introduction ...

“To ensure everyone’s security, the screener may determine that an item not on this chart is prohibited. In addition, the screener may also determine that an item on the permitted chart is dangerous and therefore may not be brought through the security checkpoint.”

More AKTI advice ... Be a Smart Traveler ... If In Doubt, Leave It Home.

For more information, consult the TSA website or contact David Kowalski, AKTI Communication Coordinator at 715-445-3781 or at communications@akti.org

**AKTI ...
Serving the
Knife Industry
and Individual Knife Owners
Since
January 1998**

**AKTI
ANNUAL MEETING
Thursday, June 12, 2003
5:00 p.m.
before Blade Show
Renaissance Waverly Hotel
Cobb Galleria Center
Atlanta, Georgia**

Coming Soon ...

AKTI is currently surveying the Attorney’s General in the 50 states to develop a uniform national standard for measuring knife blades. Watch for it in an upcoming newsletter.

AKTI’s Education Committee is looking for articles, information or resources to include on the website. Contact akti@akti.org if you would like to contribute to the resources available.

For Corporate Members

...

AKTI has issued a “white paper” on “Guidelines to Knife Naming.” AKTI encourages responsible, sensible knife naming.

Go to www.akti.org for more information.

YES, I will join AKTI and help support responsible knife use!

Give generously! Your membership dues help ...

- 1) Fight for your knife rights...as we did in Boston, as we’re doing in Florida, wherever AKTI is needed!**
- 2) Communicate regularly with knife users and the editors of more than 50 outdoor publications!**
- 3) Work with AKTI state groups to organize meetings with their lawmakers.**

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- | | |
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I support AKTI with an additional contribution of \$ _____

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Check here if you prefer to not receive any possible additional mailings.

Check here if this is a renewal.

Note: Since the American Knife and Tool Institute, Inc. has filed as a 501(c)(6) not for profit tax status, dues may be deductible as a business expense, but not as a charitable contribution.



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Forum: go to www.akti.org and click on AKTI Forum or go to www.bladeforum.com or knifeforum.com

Florida Knife Bills Introduced; Contributions Needed!

The Florida Cutlery Association (FCA) has introduced identical bills in the Florida House and Senate that would clarify the definition of “ballistic knives.” FCA wants to modify the current statute banning manufacture, sale and possession of ballistic knives in the state by making it clear that a ballistic knife has a blade that physically separates from the handle.

According to FCA lobbyist, Rick Watson, the House bill was introduced on March 7 and the Senate bill on March 18. The bill numbers (followed by Watson’s comments) are:

HB 1227 (Evers-R, Milton & Mayfield-R, Vero Beach)

The house bill received favorable references. We have the Criminal Justice Subcommittee and the Public Safety & Crime Prevention Committee. A request for hearing has been filed and I have provided the background packet of material to the staff analyst. The information provided to me from the 1985 Legislative Session when the original bill passed is very persuasive. Also, the letter from the Senator who passed the bill in 1985 stating that the current court interpretation is incorrect carries a great deal of weight.

SB 2256 (Bennett-R, Sarasota)

We pulled good committee references in the Senate. The bill will be heard by the Criminal Justice Committee and the Judiciary Committee. The sponsor has requested a hearing in the first committee. I spoke to the analyst in the first committee on Friday and provided our information packet. Our information is more extensive than she could find in the archives!

Go to www.leg.state.fl.us and follow the prompts for the House or Senate to download the actual text of the bills.

Watson adds that ... “I am very optimistic about passage. But passing any law requires we get our story in front of lawmakers and that Florida constituents talk to their representatives. We need your name, email address and your help to get these laws passed.”

Get your name on the Florida list by contacting Rick Watson at ... Richard Watson & Associates, Inc., PO Box 10038, Tallahassee, FL 32302, (850) 222-0000, (850) 222-0095 rwatsn@aol.com

Contributions are still needed to make sure this lobbying effort is funded. Make your check payable to: **FLORIDA CUTLERY ASSOCIATION**. Mail to **Steve Corn, PO Box 10038, Tallahassee, FL 32302**.