

Australian Government

Department of Home Affairs

Airport security screening process

FACT SHEET

Your rights at the screening point

When you enter a screening point, you are agreeing to each screening procedure.

If a frisk search is required, you will be asked to consent to this process.

You have the right to refuse any screening process.

However, if you refuse you will not be permitted to go through the security screening point and will not be able to board your flight.

Everyone is security screened before entering the secure area of an Australian airport terminal and boarding a flight.

This includes passengers, people accompanying passengers to the boarding gate, aircrew and airport workers.

Security screening equipment may differ from airport to airport.

Depending on the equipment being used you may be asked to leave laptops in your baggage during screening, or be asked to place them in a tray.

Screening staff can advise you of the processes at the airport you are travelling through.

Before you arrive at the airport, prepare yourself for security screening by understanding the process and knowing what you cannot take on board.

9 step security screening process

1. Place all personal items, wallets or purses in your carry-on baggage.
2. Screening staff may ask you to place items containing powders and your bag of liquid, aerosol and gel items in a tray, or to leave it in your carry-on baggage.
3. Place all loose items, such as keys, coins and mobile phones in the tray. Screening staff may ask you to place your laptop in a tray, or to leave it in your carry-on baggage.
4. Remove bulky outer wear clothing, such as coats, jacket, hats and jewellery and place them in the tray.
5. Screening staff will ask you to place your carry-on baggage in a-tray, or on the conveyor belt.

6. Inform screening officers if you have any medical devices, aids or implants before being screened.
7. Screening staff will ask you to go through the body scanner or walk-through metal detector.
Selection may be random, or may depend on equipment available.
8. If an issue is identified, you may be asked to go through the security screening process again until you are cleared.
This may include other screening methods, such as hand held-metal detector, or frisk search.
9. You may also be randomly selected for explosive trace detection testing after proceeding through the initial screening process.

Airport security in other countries

Aviation security can differ at Australian airports and in other countries.

If you are unsure of the rules, check with your airline or the country you are visiting before you travel.

March 2020. End of Document.