

European Airlines urge for change in rules on liquids

In August 2006, following the discovery of a terrorist plot to blow up aircraft with home-made liquid explosives, European airlines collaborated with European and national authorities to provide a response to this new threat, and communicate it to passengers.

However, airlines have never entirely subscribed to the restriction of liquids onboard to 100ml containers within a one litre bag, as it does not provide a satisfactory risk-based response, and has been causing significant annoyance to passengers.

Since 2007, considering the emergence of new technologies which would be able to detect liquid explosives, the Association of European Airlines, together with the airport association ACI Europe, have been urging the European Commission to lift the restrictions on the carriage of liquids onboard by introducing these new technologies at passengers' screening point.

In January 2008, the European Commission established a roadmap for introducing these technologies all across Europe within the next 18 months to two years.

AEA calls upon governments and European Commission to facilitate the introduction of these new technologies at airports before the end of 2009, thereby lifting the restrictions for passengers both originating and transferring in the EU, while providing an adequate level of security.

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