

TSA lifts post-9/11 ban against small knives, ski poles and golf clubs on planes but flight attendants are OUTRAGED at 'shortsighted' decision

By [Reuters Reporter](#) and [Daily Mail Reporter](#)

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Travelers will now be allowed to bring golf clubs, ski poles and even small knives on planes with them since aviation officials have announced significant security changes.

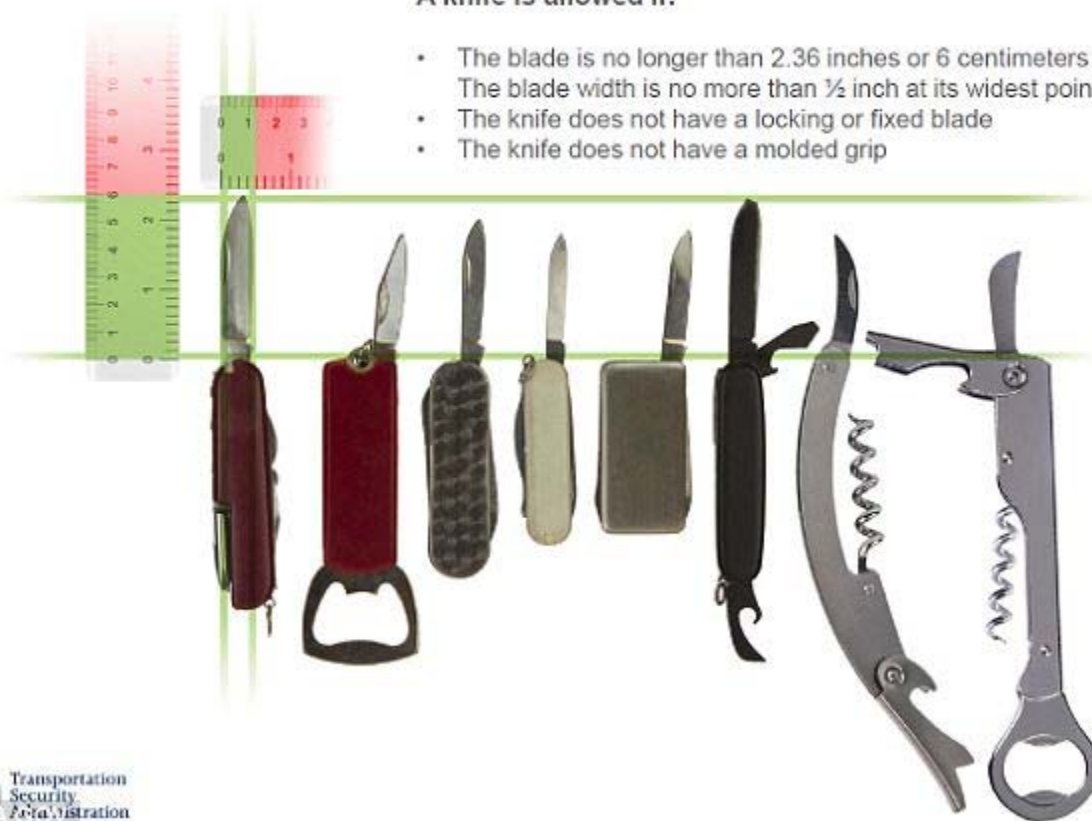
A number of previously-banned items will be allowed for the first time since the September 11 terrorism attacks, sparking outrage from flight attendants who said the decision would endanger passengers and crew.

The TSA said effective April 25, it would allow small knives with blades that are 2.36 inches or less in length and less than 1/2 inch wide.

Knives Allowed

A knife is allowed if:

- The blade is no longer than 2.36 inches or 6 centimeters in length
- The blade width is no more than 1/2 inch at its widest point
- The knife does not have a locking or fixed blade
- The knife does not have a molded grip



New rules: Flight attendants are balking at the new changes that will lift a number of prohibited items and allow travelers to carry on small knives on board

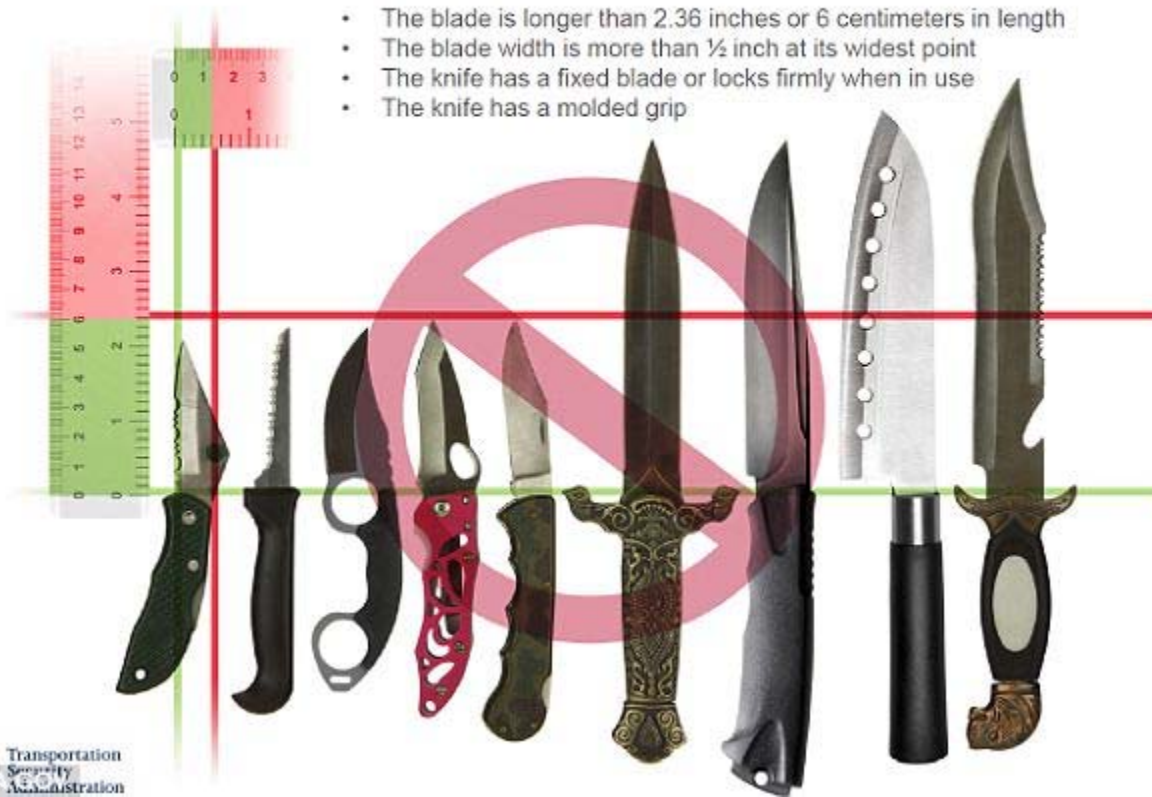
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A knife is prohibited if:

- The blade is longer than 2.36 inches or 6 centimeters in length
- The blade width is more than 1/2 inch at its widest point
- The knife has a fixed blade or locks firmly when in use
- The knife has a molded grip



Remaining restrictions: TSA officials hope that by keeping some banned it will instill less fear in flyers

Other items that will be allowed on board again as part of a passenger's carry-on luggage include billiard cues, ski poles, hockey sticks and lacrosse sticks.

Items that had been prohibited like razors, box cutters or knives with a fixed blade are still not allowed on board.

The restrictions about liquids are still in place as well, meaning that anything under 3-ounces must be declared at the security checkpoint.

TSA spokesman David Castelvetter said the decision was made to bring U.S. regulations more in line with International Civil Aviation Organization standards and would also help provide a better experience for travelers.

Small Knives Guideline





- The blade length is measured as a straight line extending from the tip of the blade to the forward-most aspect of the hilt or handle.
- The blade width is measured from the edge of the blade to the back of the blade at its widest point.



Specific: The TSA says that the changes reflect the findings of their recent review of security measures

Novelty Bats Allowed

- Bats that are more than 24 inches and more than 24 ounces are prohibited in carry-on.
- Bats more than 24 inches in length and less than 24 ounces are permitted in carry-on luggage.



Exemptions: Only certain bats are allowed but many think it is premature to allow any at all

The Association of Professional Flight attendants 'categorically rejects a proposal to allow knives of any kind in the cabin,' and they don't understand why 'such a momentous decision' was made without any consultation.

As for some of the larger items that they will now allow, like the sports equipment, increases 'the potential for passengers getting hit with these items during boarding and deplaning. It's a recipe for disaster,' said the APFA representative.

'This is part of an overall Risk-Based Security approach, which allows Transportation Security officers to better focus their efforts on finding higher-threat items such as explosives,' he said.

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Loosening the reins: TSA officials have changed their stance on certain banned objects which will now be allowed on planes starting on April 25





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No longer a threat? Billiard cues and lacrosse sticks will be allowed on board now

'As the last line of defense in the cabin and key aviation partners, we believe that these proposed changes will further endanger the lives of all flight attendants and the passengers we work so hard to keep safe and secure,' the coalition said in a statement.

Castelveter said the TSA has implemented a number of safety measures including reinforced cockpit doors, allowing some pilots to be armed and federal air marshals on board airplanes. He said those measures would help ensure safety of the passengers and crew.

After the September 11, 2001 hijacking attacks, the U.S. government imposed a strict set of guidelines for what could be carried on board an aircraft - some of which differed from what other countries allowed passengers to carry on airplanes.