

Press statement 18 April 2013

REMINDER EU TO MAINTAIN THE STATUS QUO CONCERNING RESTRICTIONS ON LIQUIDS, AEROSOLS AND GELS IN HAND LUGGAGE

ETRC reminds all retailers in Europe and outside Europe that EU restrictions on the transport of liquids, aerosols and gels (LAGs) in passengers' hand baggage will remain unchanged in 2013.

While the restrictions were initially meant to be lifted on 29th April 2013, the European Commission decided to postpone this deadline, based on a consultative process with EU stakeholders (including ETRC). A new date for the lifting of the restrictions on transfer passengers has been set for 31st January 2014.

Under the current rules passengers can carry in their personal hand luggage, LAGs in individual containers with a capacity not greater than 100ml and packed in a transparent one-litre re-sealable plastic bag. These restrictions on personal liquids in hand luggage will continue to apply for the foreseeable future.

Passengers from third countries transferring upon arrival in the EU and carrying duty-free LAGs in excess of 100ml will continue to have their products confiscated. ETRC urges retailers in third countries not to sell these products to EU transferring passengers for the time being. The only exception to these rules are those passengers arriving from the US, Canada, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur International Airport, and Croatia.

Frank O'Connell, ETRC Vice President and Special Advisor on Aviation Security, commented: "Starting on 31st January 2014, LAGs in STEBs from 3rd countries should be allowed for passengers who are transferring at European airports, provided that they are screened by liquid explosive detection systems (LEDS), but for the time being, the status quo remains."

"ETRC is closely working together with policy-makers and stakeholders to achieve the most practical basis for the implementation of the new rules and to simplify procedures for the movement of air travellers within the EU", O'Connell added.

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