



**For Immediate Release
April 22, 2008**

**USTOA and TRAVELSMITH HELP TRAVELERS
SORT AIRLINE BAGGAGE RULES
Changes Reflected on Updated Web Chart**

The US Tour Operators Association has updated its Baggage Allowance Table to reflect new Transportation Security Administration regulations regarding lithium batteries, more relaxed carry-on rules for passengers flying into some UK airports, and more stringent rules on checked baggage for U.S. domestic airlines. The updated table can be found at <http://www.ustoa.com/consumernews/airlinebaggage.cfm>.

Located in the USTOA web site's "Smart Travel Planning" section, The Airline Baggage and Security Guideline page provides an online chart with baggage allowances for both checked and carry-on luggage for various parts of the world.

The chart has been updated to reflect that:

- As of May 5 most domestic U.S. flights will only allow one free checked piece with maximum linear measurements (height+width+depth) of 62 inches apiece.
- As of January 1, 2008 some airports in the UK have relaxed their baggage carry-on rules, and – as in most parts of the world -- allow a personal item and an additional small bag.
- Maximum weight for coach class passengers is 50 lb. in the U.S., but may only be 44 lbs. for flights within the European Union and South America.
- Depending on the airline and route, prices for overweight or extra bags range from \$25 to \$150.
- Carry-on baggage allowances are usually 45 linear inches, with maximum weight varying from 40 to 50 lbs., depending on the airline.

Luggage that meets the guidelines

To illustrate the various types of luggage and carry ons meeting the above requirements TravelSmith has prepared a complementary chart: www.travelsmith.com/luggagerules . Packing lists and travel advice are also available at the TravelSmith site or by calling one of TravelSmith's expert outfitters at 1-800-950-1600.

Security Guidelines

A section on the USTOA Airline Baggage Allowance web page lists U.S. Transportation Security Administration guidelines for flights departing the U.S. and general information on flights originating at non-U.S. airports. In general, liquids limited to 3 ounces and packed in a one-quart plastic bag are allowed for most destinations worldwide.

To minimize the risk of fire, loose lithium batteries are also no longer allowed in checked luggage and will only be permitted in checked baggage if they are contained in either electronic devices, their original packaging, individual plastic bags or protective travel cases. For more information, consult www.tsa.gov/travelers/airtravel/assistant/batteries.shtm

Travelers can also find website links to the U.S. TSA as well as to representative airline sites on the USTOA Baggage Allowance page. “Baggage allowance and security regulations can change without notice, so it’s always best to check with the airline you are flying regarding the latest requirements,” advises Bob Whitley, USTOA president.

About USTOA

USTOA’s 150 member brands are responsible for the vacations of 11 million people yearly. To qualify for USTOA membership a company must meet the travel industry’s toughest requirements, including participation in the USTOA Travelers Assistance Program. Among other things, the program requires each USTOA corporate member to set aside \$1 million in security to protect consumer payments in case the company goes out of business.

More information on USTOA is available at www.ustoa.com or www.ustoa.travel. Or phone 1-800-GO-USTOA (468-7862).

About TravelSmith

Since 1992, TravelSmith has offered the most travel-worthy clothing, accessories, and gear available. Every item sold – whether via its catalog, online at travelsmith.com, or at its outlet stores – has been thoroughly field-tested for reliability and ease of care at home or on the road. TravelSmith is based in the San Francisco Bay Area but its products, from sophisticated wrinkle-defiant clothing to lightweight luggage, are favorites of savvy travelers everywhere.

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