

The TSA Blog

<http://blog.tsa.gov>

TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 2013

TSA Travel Tips Tuesday – Can You Fly Without an ID?

Did the gnome that steals your socks and car keys run off with your ID? Did your license expire and you don't have time to renew it before you travel? Did you lose your wallet? Did you simply forget your ID at home? While it is much easier to go through screening with the proper identification, you're not going to cause a snafu if you don't have it.



If you're 17 or younger, no problem... you don't need ID to travel. If you're 18 or older, no worries... you can still travel.

How so? Simply approach the travel document checker and let them know that you don't have your ID. At this point, you will be asked a simple randomly computer generated question such as: "What is the average annual rainfall in the Amazon basin?"

Seriously though... You'll be able to fly as long as you provide us with some information that will help us determine you are who you say you are.

If you're willing to provide some additional information, we have other means of substantiating your identity, such as using publicly available databases. If we can confirm your identity, you'll be cleared to go through security, and you may or may not have to go through some additional screening.

If we can't confirm your identity with the information you provide or you're not willing to provide us with the information to help us make a determination, you may not be able to fly. Regardless, if you do not have ID, please allow extra time for check in. We would not want you to miss your flight.

You can find a list of acceptable IDs [here](#).

Every Tuesday, I plan to share tips for convenient travel and other useful customer information on my blog. If you have your own tips to add, please feel free to leave a comment! See you next Tuesday!

Bob Burns
TSA Blog Team

If you have a travel related issue or question that needs an immediate answer, you can contact us by [clicking here](#).

Posted by Bob Burns (TSA Blog Team) at 4/09/2013 07:39:00 PM



ABOUT THIS BLOG

The purpose of this blog is to communicate with the public about all things TSA related. Check in regularly for "TSA Travel Tips" and our end of week "TSA Week in Review" posts on Fridays.

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118 comments:

Anonymous said...

Of course, if every passenger and their bags are screened and cleared, who cares WHO you are?

Funny how to fly domestically in Australia, no ID needs to be shown, and I haven't heard about planes falling from the skies daily there because no ID was shown.

Oh, so if a passenger doesn't have ID and then is caught in a TSA make-work gate ID check, what is he supposed to do? Go through the whole rigmarole again at the gate?

[April 9, 2013 at 8:43 PM](#)

Anonymous said...

Please make it clear this only applies to DOMESTIC travel.

[April 9, 2013 at 9:05 PM](#)

Anonymous said...

If traveling internationally you MUST have travel documents.

[April 9, 2013 at 9:09 PM](#)

Anonymous said...

Why is ID required to board a plane?

In *United States v. Deborah Davis*, the prosecutor dropped the charges because the courts have consistently ruled that one is required to present ID only at the request of law enforcement officers performing a criminal investigation.

Are TSA agents law enforcement officers? Are TSA agents performing a criminal investigation?

If a 19 year-old college student can get a fake ID to drink, why couldn't a terrorist get one too?

[April 10, 2013 at 7:55 AM](#)

Anonymous said...

Which part of The Constitution of the United States of America says that the Federal Government needs to know who is procuring transportation services from an airline?

[April 10, 2013 at 8:45 AM](#)

Anonymous said...

1. What does identity have to do with security? As long as someone is screened, who cares who they are?

2. What happened to the blog post about the public comment period for nude body scanners?

[April 10, 2013 at 8:57 AM](#)

Anonymous said...

Why do we need ID at all to fly? As long as passengers are properly screened, who cares who is on a flight? They wouldn't have any dangerous items on them if they are properly screened. The person checking ID's at the checkpoint isn't checking against the no fly list since that is done when the ticket is bought. The ID check could be eliminated which would allow that person to help screen passengers or just eliminate the position to save money.

Also, I have witnessed ID's being checked at the boarding gate. The TSA wasn't randomly screening baggage, they were just checking ID's. What is the point of that? It just seems like a waste of resources.

[April 10, 2013 at 9:46 AM](#)

Anonymous said...

Okay, TSA. You have had more than enough time and more than enough prodding to create a blog entry about the public comment process on AIT. Where is it? Are you trying to circumvent the intent of the court order by refusing to notify the public about it even through a means as simple and as reasonable as a blog entry?

[April 10, 2013 at 10:28 AM](#)


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