

ACI EUROPE

Boulevard du Régent 37-
40 (5th floor)
1000 Brussels, Belgium
www.aci-europe.org

Changes to EU regulation restrict the use of new generation baggage scanners at Europe's airports

New restriction delivers a setback for the passenger experience and a blow to major investments made by airports.

Brussels, 31 July 2024: ACI EUROPE today took stock of changes to the EU Aviation Security Regulation¹ which introduces severe restrictions to the use of next generation cabin baggage scanners at airports in the EU, as well as Iceland, Switzerland, Liechtenstein and Norway (EEA).

The amendments are specifically targeting C3 scanners, the cutting edge technology upholding best in class detection standards – which until now allowed passengers to carry liquids without any restriction and to keep them along with their large electronic devices inside their cabin bags at security checkpoints.

The new restriction introduces as of 1 September 2024 a 100ml limitation for individual containers of liquids, thus erasing the main benefit accruing to passengers from C3 scanners. This will also reduce the passenger throughput of security checkpoints at airports that have deployed C3 scanners. It will result in significant operational strain, the mitigation of which will require the deployment of additional staff and the reconfiguration of security checkpoints, where feasible.

Finally, the new restriction means that those airports that have already invested in C3 scanners to improve the passenger experience and their operational efficiency are heavily penalised – as little of the benefits associated with the use of this cutting edge technology will materialise. Purchasing C3 scanners² is on average 8 times more expensive than the conventional X-ray screening machines they are replacing, while operating maintenance costs are 4 times higher.

Olivier Jankovec, ACI EUROPE Director General said: *"Security is non-negotiable, it is at the very top of priorities for Europe's airports. As such all airports will comply in full with the new restriction. However, the fact remains that those airports which have been early adopters of this new technology are being heavily penalised both operationally and financially. They had taken the decision to invest and deploy C3 scanners in good faith, based on the EU having greenlighted this equipment without any restriction attached. The decision to now impose significant restrictions to their use questions the trust and confidence the industry can place in the current EU certification system for aviation security equipment. We need to draw the lessons from this situation and make sure the EU certification system provides the necessary legal certainty and operational stability moving forward."*

Although this restriction is intended to be temporary, ACI EUROPE regrets the fact that no timeline and no process have been put in place

to lift it. We, therefore, call on the European Commission and Member States to urgently develop a roadmap with set milestones to waive the current restrictions and restore the trust in the EU certification system for aviation security equipment. In the meantime, in order to limit operational impacts, it will be essential to ensure that liquids limited to 100ml can remain inside cabin bags when screened by C3 scanners.

¹ Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2024/2108 of 29 July 2024 amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/1998 as regards certain urgent aviation security measures regarding equipment for the security screening of liquids, aerosols and gels – [LINK](#)

² For the time being, C3 scanners have been deployed by airports in a limited number of countries, such as Germany, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Malta, the Netherlands, and Sweden. However, investments have been committed by airports in many other countries.

ENDS

For more information, contact:

Agata Lyznik
Director of Communications & Media
Tel: +32 2 552 09 89
Email: agata.lyznik@aci-europe.org

ACI EUROPE is the European region of Airports Council International (ACI), the only worldwide professional association of airport operators. ACI EUROPE represents over 500 airports in 55 countries. Our members facilitate over 90% of commercial air traffic in Europe. Air transport supports 13.5 million jobs, generating €886 billion in European economic activity (4.4% of GDP). In response to the Climate Emergency, in June 2019 our members committed to achieving Net Zero carbon emissions for operations under their control by 2050, without offsetting.