

TRANSPORTING AMUNITION ON SAA

The rules pertaining to transport of ammunition onboard SAA aircraft have been amended in order to align it with international requirements.

Firearms **may NOT be packed** inside checked luggage, and must therefore be packed in an appropriate lockable firearm container or case, separate from checked luggage.

Ammunition must be separated from weapons and may be packed within checked luggage, but must be properly secured in an ammunition case or solid box. No ammunition may be packed loosely in checked baggage or within the same case as firearms. Quantity of ammunition in checked baggage is not limited, but may not exceed 5Kg.

It is strongly recommend that ammunition be packed in lockable cases, which can be handed in as loose items at the firearm counters, to avoid possible delays during checked baggage screening. I suggest you use your shooting/range bag for this purpose, to carry all your shooting stuff – except the gun!!! The gun should be packed in its own container/carry bag which can be locked. This will (hopefully) prevent your gun from ending up with other baggage, as the diplomatic locker used for firearm carriage has limited space, and cannot accommodate several large range bags.

All firearms and ammunition **must** be declared to the airline check-in agent at the time of check-in. The check-in agent will issue you with a baggage tag for your firearm case as well as your range bag. You then proceed with these two tags and the gun and range bags to the firearm check-in counter – make sure you are early! Do NOT put your gun in your normal checked baggage - undeclared firearms and ammunition within checked luggage will result in such baggage being rejected during mandatory checked baggage screening. It will result in the passenger being required to open such baggage for further inspection and safe handling, or the confiscation of such items for further processing and forwarding on a subsequent flight.

Check-in agents will issue the relevant baggage tags and will then direct firearm owners to the appropriate firearm desk for inspection and processing of firearms and ammunition for secure handling to the aircraft.

The 5kg's restriction is not about the actual weight, but is a regulatory requirement in terms of Dangerous Goods Regulations, and the following would apply:

- a) All ammunition weighing more than 5kg's must be packed in terms of the IATA Dangerous Goods Regulations. This can be done at any IATA licensed Freight Forwarding or accredited company.
- b) Each box containing more can be packed according to spec, or the items may all be packed together (the agent will inform of maximum quantities.)
- c) The ammunition should then (under normal circumstances) be tendered for carriage at SAA Cargo. This should happen ahead of you arriving for check-in; preferably a couple of days before departure, to make sure your ammo is there by the time you arrive for the match.
- d) The process of shipping through cargo ensures compliance with packing requirements and SAA Cargo generates a mandatory notice (NOTOC) to the Captain informing him of Dangerous Goods onboard.

Since the implementation of mandatory screening of checked baggage, all bags containing ammunition are also checked, and if it does not conform to standards and/or exceeds the weight limit, are confiscated and handed to the SAPS for safe keeping until the owner reclaims it. It is also because of this process that the SAA policy had to be revised, to ensure our passengers are aware of the restrictions.

Should you wish to transport ammunition in excess of 5Kg's, this must be arranged with a cargo agent, who will assist you with the necessary documentation as well as packaging instructions and materials. This is one company I know of, but there are others:

Dangerous Goods Management (SA)(PTY)LTD
Aviation Park
Unit 5
Pomona Road
Pomona, Kempton Park.

Robbie Lombard
Tel: (011) 396 2755
Fax: (011) 396 2758
Cell: 078 656 5550
consulting@dgmsa.com

Summary:

- Ammo may be carried in checked baggage, but must be declared.
- All ammo must be packed in suitable containers (our standard plastic range ammo boxes are OK), but may not exceed 5Kg to qualify as baggage.
- Take both gun and ammo in separate containers to firearm check-in counter.

SAA is currently the only airline transporting firearms in South Africa. If you decide to "test the system" with more than 5Kg's of ammo in your baggage, don't cry and say you were not warned. If you get away with it – good luck!!!

Hope this helps

Hein