

# Packing Firearms and Ammunition

The Transportation Security Administration detects firearms and other weapons at security checkpoints daily. Travelers may only transport ammunition and unloaded firearms in a locked, hard-sided container as checked baggage and are prohibited in carry-on baggage. Below are the guidelines for transporting firearms and ammunition:

## Firearms

- Firearms must be unloaded and locked in a hard-sided container and transported as checked baggage only. Firearm parts, including firearm frames and receivers, are prohibited in all carry-on baggage and must also be placed in checked baggage.
- All firearms, ammunition and parts in checked baggage must be declared at the airline ticket counter during the check-in process.
- Replica firearms may be transported in checked baggage only.
- Travelers are encouraged to check regulations related to carrying firearms where they are traveling from and to, as laws may vary by destination.
- Rifle scopes are permitted in carry-on and checked bags.



## Ammunition

- Firearm magazines and ammunition clips, whether loaded or empty, must be securely boxed or included within a hard-sided case containing an unloaded firearm.
- Small arms ammunition, including ammunition not exceeding .75 caliber for a rifle or pistol and shotgun shells of any gauge, may be carried in the same hard-sided case as the firearm, as described in the packing guidelines above.

## Law Enforcement Officers

There are certain limited exceptions for law enforcement officers who may fly armed by meeting the requirements of Title 409 CFR § 1544.219. Law enforcement officers traveling with firearms can visit the law enforcement officer travel section of [tsa.gov](http://tsa.gov) for a list of policies.

TSA must resolve all alarms in checked baggage. If a locked container carrying a firearm alarms, TSA or the airline will make a reasonable attempt to contact the owner. If contact is not made, the container will not be placed on the aircraft.

For specific types of firearms and ammunition allowed in checked baggage visit [tsa.gov](http://tsa.gov).

Before leaving home, travelers are encouraged to check their baggage to ensure they are not traveling with any prohibited items including firearms, firearm parts and ammunition to avoid a possible arrest or civil penalties.

