

Lights. Camera. Packing?

Audio Visual production professionals often travel with gear that could be considered **DANGEROUS GOODS** and **HAVE RESTRICTIONS** for air travel. Before packing, check the PackSafe chart and your products' Safety Data Sheets to see what you can and cannot bring as carry-on or checked baggage onboard an aircraft. Below is a summary of gear and how to pack it.

A passenger may not transport a hazardous material (dangerous good) in checked or carry-on baggage unless the material meets one of the exceptions in *Code of Federal Regulations Title 49 part 175.10*.

- **LARGE BATTERIES OF 25 WATT HOURS (WH) AND HIGHER:**

- **Limitations:**

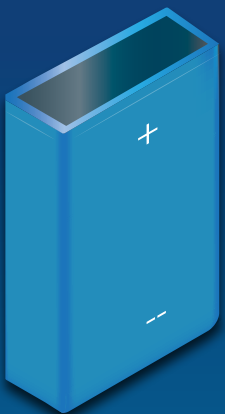
- Lithium-ion (rechargeable) batteries are limited to a rating of 100 Wh per battery. No quantity limits. Pack in carry-on bag.
- With airline approval, passengers may also carry up to two spare larger lithium-ion batteries (101-160 Wh) in their carry-on bag.
- Batteries with a rating **HIGHER THAN 160 WH ARE PROHIBITED** on aircraft regardless of quantity or bag location.

- **Identify your battery strength:**

- Most cameras take large batteries with watts anywhere from 30 Wh – 250 Wh.
- Many newer batteries have Wh listed on the battery itself. If not, you can calculate the Wh: **WH = VOLTS (V) X AMPERE HOURS (AH)**.

- **Store and protect batteries from damage and short circuit:**

- Battery **PROTECTION COULD INCLUDE** covering terminals with tape, storing each battery in a separate bag, or keeping them in original packaging.
- External chargers, power banks, and other spare, uninstalled or detached lithium-ion and lithium metal batteries, **MUST BE PACKED IN CARRY-ON BAGGAGE ONLY**. When a bag is checked at the gate or at planeside, keep all spare lithium batteries with you in the aircraft cabin.
- All battery-powered devices are recommended to be in carry-on bags.
- When devices containing lithium metal or lithium-ion batteries (laptops, cameras, smartphones, tablets, etc.) must be packed in checked baggage, they should be **TURNED COMPLETELY OFF**, protected from accidental activation, and packed so they are protected from damage.





• SMALL CONSUMER BATTERIES / AA, AAA, ETC.:

- Dry alkaline/rechargeable battery terminals should always be protected.
- Lithium-ion/metal batteries have limits (check the [PackSafe](#) chart), should always be protected, and spares cannot be in checked bags.

• DRONES:

- Check with airlines on their policies and restrictions as each airline's policies may differ.
- Battery size limitations apply (see above and/or the [PackSafe](#) chart).
- Ensure drone is off and protected from activation.
- Spare batteries should be protected and in carry-on bags.

• LARGE TRIPODS, STANDS, CASES, ETC.:

- Special check-in procedures for oversized items and very heavy items over 50 lbs. may apply. Check with your airline.

• LENS CLEANER WIPES:

- These are allowed in both checked and carry-on bags.

• LENS CLEANER FLUID:

- If it contains alcohol, check the transportation section of the manufacturer's Safety Data Sheet.
- Most are not regulated. However, [TSA's liquid limitations](#) of 3.4 ounces for carry-on bags do apply.

• LENS/EQUIPMENT CLEANER – COMPRESSED AIR:

- Checked bag only
- The total aggregate quantity per person cannot exceed 2 kg (70 ounces) or 2 L (68 fluid ounces). The capacity of each container must not exceed 0.5 kg (18 ounces) or 500 ml (17 fluid ounces).

• MULTI-TOOLS:

- Small knives or scissors for cutting must be checked.

• LIGHT BULBS:

- Some types may be regulated if they contain mercury, check with the manufacturer's Safety Data Sheet.

• FIND MORE AT [faa.gov/go/packsafe](https://www.faa.gov/go/packsafe)



**Federal Aviation
Administration**



PackSafe

For a safe start, check the chart