

To Ban or Not to Ban....

Electronics Ban:

In March of this year, the Department of Homeland Security announced an Electronics Ban prohibiting the carrying of any electronic devices larger than a mobile phone onto the plane from 10 specific airports with a U.S. destination. This week, three airlines have received specific approval to lift the ban for their flights from certain cities, allowing all electronic devices to be carried on the plane subject to enhanced security measures.

CHANGES in JULY:

- **Etihad and Emirates:** Ban fully lifted for flights from **Abu Dhabi International Airport** to the United States.
- **Emirates:** Ban fully lifted for flights from **Dubai International Airport** to the United States.
- **Turkish Airways:** Ban fully lifted for flights from **Istanbul Ataturk Airport** to the United States.
- **Qatar Airways:** Ban fully lifted for flights from **Doha's Hamad International Airport** to the United States.

Royal Air Maroc expects the restriction to lift from Casablanca's Mohammed V International Airport by July 19, according to Reuters. The ban also is in place for Kuwait International Airport, Cairo International Airport and Amman, Jordan's Queen Alia International Airport.

Although Saudi Arabian Airlines is stating they also expect to have the ban lifted by July 19th, the DHS spokesman said, "We're not in a position to confirm so far in advance... Saudi Arabian Airlines is still operating under the portable electronic device restriction."

THREAT of an EXPANDED BAN DIMINISHES:

It appears that through all of the speculation and challenges from both corporations and airlines alike, the threat of expanding the Electronics Ban to U.S.-bound European flights has diminished. Although the concern of terrorist threats remains, alternative security enhancements seem to be paving the way to avoid the cost and significant disruptions.

As a bit of a refresher – the 10 airports covered by the ban included:

- Queen Alia International Airport (AMM) in Jordan
- Cairo International Airport (CAI) in Egypt
- Istanbul Ataturk Airport (IST) in Turkey
- King Abdulaziz International Airport (JED) in Saudi Arabia
- King Khalid International Airport (RUH) in Saudi Arabia
- Kuwait International Airport (KWI) in Kuwait
- Mohammed V International Airport (CMN) in Morocco
- Hamad International Airport (DOH) in Qatar
- Dubai International Airport (DXB) in United Arab Emirates
- Abu Dhabi International Airport (AUH) in the United Arab Emirates

The following are airlines that were affected:

- Emirates
- Etihad Airways
- Qatar airways
- Kuwait Airways
- Royal Jordanian
- Saudi Arabian Airlines
- EgyptAir
- Turkish Airlines
- Royal Air Maroc

The TRAVEL BAN

As for the inbound Travel Ban, we also saw some changes take place, although quite limited in nature. The U.S. Supreme Court partially restored President Trump's Travel Ban, which was previously blocked by lower courts in the U.S. since February. For the next 90 days, only those individuals, including refugees, who have 'close' family or business ties in the U.S., will qualify for a new visa.

Questions and Answers:

To which countries does this Ban apply?

- People from Iran, Libya, Syria, Somalia, Sudan, and Yemen.

Who can qualify for a visa?

- Travelers from the six listed countries and all refugees will only qualify for a new visa if they have a parent, spouse, fiancé, child, son or daughter-in-law, or sibling - including step- or half-siblings - already living in the U.S.
- Those with only grandparents, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, in-laws or extended family, and grandchildren will not qualify.

What about those that are dual nationals?

- Dual nationals who travel on their passport from an unaffected country will be allowed entry, as will those who can prove they have a genuine business relationship in the U.S.

When will the final ruling take place?

- The Supreme Court said it will make a final ruling on the travel ban in October.