

# US Department of Transportation Policy Regarding Musical Instruments Onboard Commercial Aircraft

From: [www.AccentOnMusic.com](http://www.AccentOnMusic.com)

**Note:** This is a copy of a January, 2003, letter sent to Thomas Lee, president of the American Federation of Musicians from Thomas Blank, Assistant Administrator for Security Regulation and Policy, in regards to musical instruments as carry-on baggage. If you plan to carry your guitar onboard, we suggest you carry a copy of this letter with you when you fly.



United States Department of Transportation  
TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

4401 Seventh Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20599

Mr. Thomas Lee  
President  
American Federation of Musicians  
1501 Broadway Street, Suite 600  
New York, NY 10036-5501

JAN 17 2003

Dear Mr. Lee:

As a follow-up to our earlier meeting with Mr. Hal Ponder of the American Federation of Musicians, following are the Transportation Security Administration's (TSA) revised policy and procedures regarding the screening and carriage of musical instruments through security screening checkpoints at our nation's airports and transport of musical instruments aboard aircraft.

- On December 20, 2002, TSA instructed aircraft operators that effective immediately, they are to allow musical instruments as carry-on baggage in addition to the limit of one bag and one personal item per person as carry-on baggage on an aircraft.
- Additionally, these revised procedures were communicated to our TSA screeners at the passenger screening checkpoints throughout the country. Should your membership experience problems at the security screening checkpoints, please advise them to request to speak to a screening supervisor for resolution.

If I can provide further assistance, please feel free to give me a call.

Sincerely yours

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Blank", is written over the typed name.

Thomas R. Blank  
Assistant Administrator for Security  
Regulation and Policy

cc:  
Mr. Hal Ponder  
American Federation of Musicians  
1741 K Street, Suite 500  
Washington, DC 20036