

Table 524. Prohibited Items Intercepted at U.S. Airport Screening Checkpoints: 2004 to 2008

[Passengers boarding aircraft in thousands (702,921 represents 702,921,000). Transportation Security Administration (TSA) assumed responsibility for airport security on February 17, 2002; and by November 19, 2002, TSA assumed control over all passenger screenings from private contractors]

Year	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Passengers boarding aircraft, total ¹	702,921	738,327	744,242	769,370	741,450
Domestic	640,698	670,418	671,796	693,374	664,714
International	62,222	67,908	72,445	75,996	76,735
Total prohibited items	7,104,095	15,886,404	13,709,684	6,516,026	(NA)
Knife ²	2,055,404	1,822,892	1,607,125	1,056,691	(9)
Other cutting items ³	3,409,888	3,276,941	163,419	101,387	(9)
Club ⁴	28,998	20,531	12,296	9,443	(9)
Box cutter ⁵	22,430	21,319	15,999	11,908	(9)
Firearm ⁵	254	850	820	1,416	902
Incendiary ⁶	697,606	374,487	94,097	73,670	116,200
Lighters ⁷	178	9,420,991	11,616,688	5,124,344	(9)
Other ⁸	889,337	949,243	200,060	137,167	(9)

NA Not available. ¹ Data comes from the Air Transport Association. Data are for U.S. passenger and cargo airlines only. ² Knife includes any length and type except round-bladed, butter, and plastic cutlery. ³ Other cutting instruments refer to, e.g., scissors, screwdrivers, swords, sabers, and ice picks. ⁴ Club refers to baseball bats, night sticks, billy clubs, bludgeons; etc. ⁵ Firearm refers to items like pistols, revolvers, rifles, automatic weapons, shotguns, parts of guns and firearms. ⁶ Incendiaries refer to categories of ammunition and gunpowder, flammables/irritants, and explosives. ⁷ As of April 14, 2005, passengers are prohibited from carrying all lighters on their person or in carry-on luggage or onboard an airplane. ⁸ Other refer to categories of ammunition and gunpowder, dangerous objects, fireworks, replica weapons, and tools. ⁹ The data for this prohibited item category is no longer collected as of August 8, 2008.

Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Transportation Security Administration, unpublished data (June 2009); <<http://www.tsa.gov>>; Air Transport Association of America, Washington, DC; Annual Traffic and Operations: U.S. Airlines; <<http://www.airlines.org/economic/traffic/>>.