TSA Announces Deployment of New Security Screening Program

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has announced a new security screening program aimed at expediting the airport screening process for travelers. Your company may be eligible for participation in the pilot phase of this program. Please continue reading for further details.

TSA Pre✓™

The TSA is deploying an expedited security screening program for passengers traveling in the U.S. Participants may enjoy benefits such as no longer removing the following items at the security checkpoint: shoes, 3-1-1 compliant bag from carry-on (all liquid restrictions still apply), light outerwear/jacket and belt. Customers may be required to go through a more detailed security screening at the discretion of the TSA agent.

The following carriers are currently participating in the program:

- United Airlines
- Delta Airlines
- American Airlines
- US Airways
- Alaska Airlines

If you are enrolled in a rewards program through any of the above carriers, you may be eligible to participate in the initial phase of this program.

Where and when will TSA Pre✓™ be available?

TSA Pre✓™ is only available for travel itineraries wholly within the United States. TSA's deployment plan includes at least 11 airports by the end of 2012. Full details of the TSA Pre✓™ program are available on the TSA website at http://www.tsa.gov/what_we_do/escreening.shtm.

How do customers participate?

Participation via United Airlines, for example, is as follows:

MileagePlus® members are invited to participate in the initial phase of the program. Customers may log into their MileagePlus profile to update their traveler information and preferences. This is a one-time sign up for UA departures via www.united.com. Former Continental OnePass® customers who already signed up for TSA Pre✓™ will not need to sign up again with MileagePlus as their information was transitioned to the MileagePlus program. Additionally, U.S. citizens currently enrolled in the Global Entry, NEXUS or SENTRI Trusted Traveler programs can also participate by providing their Known Traveler or PASS ID number. For more information on how to sign up for the program, customers can visit TSA Pre-screening Sign-Up and enter their MileagePlus number to sign in.

Participation and registration may vary by approved airline. Please visit an approved airline website for specifications. For additional information, please visit the TSA website at http://www.tsa.gov/what_we_do/escreening.shtm.

Q. How will customers know which airports offer TSA Pre✓™?

A. Customers can visit the TSA website at http://www.tsa.gov/what_we_do/escreening.shtm for the most up to date information.

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Important facts

Please note that the TSA will determine eligibility for inclusion in the pilot program on a per-flight-segment basis, and signing up, or even being selected for one flight, does not guarantee that the traveler will receive expedited screening during future travel.

If the TSA determines a passenger is eligible for expedited screening, information is embedded in the barcode of the passenger's boarding pass. TSA agents will read the barcode at a designated checkpoint, and the passenger may be referred to a designated lane for expedited screening. The program is available at checkpoint lanes that TSA has designated and may or may not include a dedicated queuing lane.

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Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Can customers sign up for the program at the airport?
A. No, they will need to opt-in via an approved airline.

Note: Members of a Known Traveler program will be able to provide their Known Traveler/PASS ID number to an agent at the airport however, opting in can only be done via an approved airline website.

Q. How will customers learn if they qualify for TSA Pre✓™ lane entry?
A. At this time there is no way to identify eligibility as the eligibility information is embedded in the barcode of the passenger's boarding pass and detected by the TSA Security Checkpoint scanner. Customers should be directed to a TSA agent to scan the barcode to determine eligibility.

Q. Where is the dedicated TSA Pre✓™ security lane located?
A. It will vary by airport and TSA will have signage.

Q. Is enrollment in TSA Pre✓™ reciprocal among domestic carriers?
A. No, Current traveler participation is driven by TSA and requires personal data to be collected and shared with TSA and enrollment information is not shared between carriers.

Q. If customers are already signed up for TSA Pre✓™ with one carrier, are they able to use the expedited check points for other carriers in the U.S.?
A. This is dependent on the airline that generates the boarding pass. If the boarding pass was generated by UA, the customer should be able to approach any TSA Pre✓™ checkpoint and see if he/she qualifies for that segment.