



Early this morning, British authorities arrested at least 21 extremists, alleged to have engaged in a plot to detonate liquid explosives onboard multiple commercial aircraft departing from the United Kingdom and bound for the United States. This plot appears to have been well planned and well advanced, and in the final stages of preparation. The terrorists planned to carry the components of the bombs – including liquid explosive ingredients and detonating devices – disguised as beverages, electronic devices, and other common objects.

While the operation was centered in Britain, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) believes it was international in scope and that the arrests in Britain have significantly disrupted this threat. We cannot assume, however, that it has been completely thwarted, or that all members of this terrorist network have been fully identified and neutralized. Even though there is currently no indication of any plotting within the United States, the federal government is taking immediate steps to increase security measures in the aviation sector.

First, DHS has raised the nation's threat level to our highest level of alert, Severe or Red, for commercial flights originating in the United Kingdom bound for the United States. This adjustment coordinates our alert level with the Critical, or highest, alert level that has been implemented in the United Kingdom. Further, as a precaution against any loose ends in the plot, and against any would-be copy-cats who might be inspired to conduct similar attacks, DHS also raised the threat level to High, or Orange, for all domestic commercial aviation and for all flights arriving in the United States from foreign countries other than the United Kingdom.

These measures will continue to assure that our aviation system remains safe and secure. Travelers should go about their plans confidently, while maintaining vigilance in their surroundings and exercising patience with screening and security officials. **Effective immediately, DHS implemented the following changes to airport screening procedures:**

- NO LIQUIDS OR GELS OF ANY KIND WILL BE PERMITTED IN CARRY ON BAGGAGE. SUCH ITEMS MUST BE IN CHECKED BAGGAGE. This includes all beverages, shampoo, sun tan lotion, creams, toothpaste, hair gel, and other items of similar consistency.  
*Exception: Baby formula, breast milk, or juice if a baby or small child is traveling; prescription medicine with a name that matches the passenger's ticket; and insulin and essential other non-prescription medicines, which all must be presented for inspection at the checkpoint.*
- Beverages purchased in the boarding area (beyond the checkpoint) must be consumed before boarding because they will not be permitted on board the aircraft.
- Passengers traveling from the U.K. to the U.S. will be subject to a more extensive screening process.

These measures will be constantly evaluated and updated when circumstances warrant.

**How every passenger can assist in security:**

- Pack lightly, without clutter to facilitate easier screening
- Arrive earlier than usual at the airport
- Cooperate with TSA personnel at checkpoints and with airline personnel at all gates
- Be attentive and vigilant to any suspicious activity and report it to authorities