

# The history of security controls is linked to social development

As a result of internationalization and increasing passenger numbers, increased attention was paid to aviation safety in the 1960s and 70s.

New factors came to the forefront of aviation safety management, as numerous aircraft hijackings and terrorist attacks took place around the world in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

The first air passenger security controls were introduced in the United States in 1973. Prior to this, passenger security controls were the responsibility of individual airlines. Passengers' hand baggage was checked and passengers boarded the aircraft through a metal detector. At the same time, escorts' access to the departure gate area was restricted. The purpose of the controls was to prevent weapons from being brought into the aircraft cabin.

Security controls were also introduced at Helsinki Airport in 1973 by means of random checks. On flights to certain countries, such as the United States and Israel, security regulations were particularly stringent. Security controls of passengers and hand baggage became standard on all international flights in 1975.

Following the Lockerbie bombing in 1988, security controls were extended to cargo hold baggage on international flights. At the beginning of 2003, security controls for all cargo hold baggage were introduced. In Finland, security controls for domestic passengers began in 1990 and became compulsory in 2001.

In 2006, a code on liquids came into force for instance in EU countries and the United States, banning the transport of liquid containers over 100 ml in the cabin. Passengers had to be better prepared for the journey and security control. Now, 16 years later, the new security control technology at Helsinki Airport enables liquids to be carried in hand baggage, facilitating travel.

Finavia in collaboration with Finnish Aviation Museum.  
Photo: Finnish Civil Aviation Administration / Finnish Aviation Museum.

