



The ileostomy & internal pouch

Support Group

Registered Charity

BODY SCREENING AT AIRPORTS

IA strongly recommends that you carry a travel certificate with you at all times so that you have a document to present to security staff to describe your condition should this be required. It may also be helpful to have a letter from your GP. If you do not already have a travel certificate, we will be pleased to send you one by post (please contact **IA** National Office).

We have been in correspondence with the Department for Transport to highlight awareness of the concerns of travellers with stomas and have provided information that will be useful to security staff dealing with these issues. The Department for Transport has supplied the following information:

Advanced Imaging Technology (also known as bodyscanners) are designed to give airport security staff a much better chance of detecting explosives or other potentially harmful items hidden on a passenger's body. The statement announcing the implementation of bodyscanners at Manchester and Heathrow is available on the Department's website at: <http://www.dft.gov.uk/press/speechesstatements/statements/adonis20100201>

The Department is aware of potential concerns involving privacy, health and safety, data protection and equality issues. We have therefore issued an interim Code of Practice to ensure airports will undertake scanning sensitively, having regard to the rights of passengers. The interim Code of Practice is available online at: <http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/security/aviation/airport/bodyscanners/codeofpractice/>

The Department will shortly be launching a full public consultation on the requirements relating to the use of scanners as set out in the Interim Code of Practice and will consider all representations carefully before preparing a final Code of Practice later in the year.

The scan shows only the external characteristics of the body. It does not penetrate the skin or display images of internal organs. The scan does highlight anomalies so it is likely to highlight individuals who 'wear a bag'. However security officers are trained to deal with issues of this nature in an appropriate manner as they already undertake during any other search process; and body scanners offer a far less intrusive process than a hand search as there is no physical contact needed during the scanning process.

In addition, safeguards have been developed to ensure passengers' privacy is respected. Images are viewed remotely from the machine, and are deleted immediately after analysis. Images cannot be recovered at a later date from the machines. Only security vetted and trained security staff employed by the airport will be able to view the images.

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