

## **Can You Fly with Cremated Remains?**

Yes. You may bring a cremation container on the plane with you if certain conditions are met.

We realize how difficult it is to lose a loved one, but knowing and planning to meet these conditions ahead of time can help you avoid disappointment at the airport. For example, some airlines do not allow cremated remains as checked baggage, so please check with your air carrier first to learn about possible restrictions.

### ***Security procedures***

Passengers are allowed to carry a cremation container with them as part of their carry-on baggage. The container, however, must pass through the x-ray machine.

- It must be made of a material that allows the x-ray to clearly scan its contents.
- It must pass security screening. Documentation from a funeral home does not provide an exemption to this requirement.
- Screening officers are not permitted to open a cremation container, and they will not inspect the contents if you open it yourself.
- It cannot be placed in checked baggage if it has been x-rayed at pre-board screening and its contents could not be determined.

### ***Before heading to the airport***

Ask your funeral director about temporary containers for transportation purposes. These containers are more likely to pass through security. You can also bring your empty permanent container with you and arrange for a funeral home at your destination to transfer the container contents.

### ***What cremation container materials will pass through the security checkpoint?***

Due to differences in thickness, shape and material, some cremation containers are more likely to pass through security screening.

Plastic, cardboard or cloth containers are most likely to clear the x-ray machine and be permitted past the checkpoint.

Metal, granite and ceramic containers are least likely to be permitted past the checkpoint.

### ***Options at the airport***

If your container does not pass pre-board screening for carry-on baggage, you may:

- leave the container with a friend or family member who is not travelling and still at the airport;
- ask your airline representative to re-book you on a later flight, allowing you time to make other arrangements; or
- ship the container via mail, cargo or courier. Please keep in mind that shipping options vary at airports.

**For more information visit [www.catsa.gc.ca](http://www.catsa.gc.ca) or call 1 800 O-Canada**

## Changes to Regulations for Screening Cremation Containers at Canadian airports

### Qs&As for the Public

#### Background:

Recent changes to Transport Canada regulations mean CATSA must update its procedures for screening cremation containers. Under the new regulations, cremation containers that cannot be cleared by the x-ray machine will not be permitted past the security checkpoint.

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#### **Q. When do the new procedures come into effect?**

**A.** New procedures come into effect July 26, 2013.

#### **Q. Why is this change being made now?**

**A.** CATSA's procedures for screening cremation containers are being updated to reflect changes to Transport Canada regulations. The new regulations are consistent with the approach taken by other countries when screening cremation containers.

#### **Q. How will CATSA's procedures for screening cremation containers change?**

**A.** Passengers going through pre-board screening with a cremation container will be asked to place it in a specially designed bin so that it can be screened using x-ray technology.

#### **Q. I can provide a cremation certificate and death certificate. Does this exempt my container from screening?**

**A.** No. All cremation containers must be screened and cleared by the x-ray machine under these new procedures.

#### **Q. How will cremation containers be handled? Is there a chance my container will be damaged?**

**A.** Screening officers will not handle cremation containers. Passengers will be asked to carefully place cremation containers in a specially designed bin so that they may be x-rayed. The x-ray will not harm the container or its contents.

#### **Q. Is it possible that a cremation container may not be permitted?**

**A.** Yes. A cremation container will not be permitted beyond the screening checkpoint unless it is cleared by the x-ray machine.

#### **Q. What can I do if my cremation container is not permitted?**

**A.** You may wish to:

- leave the container with a friend or family member who is not travelling and still at the airport;
- ask your airline representative to re-book you on a later flight, allowing you time to make other arrangements;  
or
- ship the container via mail, cargo or courier. Please keep in mind that shipping options vary at airports.

**Q. If my cremation container did not pass the x-ray inspection, can I open it to show screening officers that there are no non-permitted items inside?**

**A.** No. If a cremation container does not pass the x-ray inspection, screening officers are not permitted to visually inspect the contents.

However, if your cremation container is empty, you can inform the screening officer, offer to open it yourself and show him or her there is nothing inside.

**Q. Are some types of containers more likely to pass the x-ray inspection?**

**A.** Due to differences in thickness, shape and material, some cremation containers are more likely to pass through security screening. **Plastic, cardboard or cloth containers are most likely to clear the x-ray and be permitted past the checkpoint.** Metal, granite and ceramic containers are least likely to be permitted past the checkpoint.

**Q: Are cremation containers allowed in checked baggage?**

**A.** An empty cremation container is allowed in carry-on or checked baggage. If it is not empty, ask your airline before you travel if they will allow it in checked baggage (some do, some don't). All cremation containers, however, are subject to screening and may be rejected, whether transported empty or full, as carry-on or checked baggage.

**Q. I have questions about the screening of cremation containers. How can I obtain more information?**

**A.** You can visit [www.catsa.gc.ca](http://www.catsa.gc.ca) or call 1 800 O-Canada for more information.

## **Changes to Regulations for Screening Cremation Containers**

### **Communication for the funeral industry associations to provide to their members**

- As of July 26, 2013, Transport Canada (TC) is introducing regulatory changes that will require CATSA (Canadian Air Transport Security Authority) to follow new procedures for screening cremation containers.
- These procedures are similar to what has been in effect and practised by the U.S. Transportation Security Administration (TSA) for several years now.
- This is the bottom line:
  - Cremation and/or death certificates will no longer enable a passenger to carry a crematory container through security and onto a plane without screening.
  - CATSA officials must now screen every cremation container transported as carry-on baggage using the x-ray machine to ensure there are no prohibited items inside. If it cannot be cleared by the x-ray machine, it will not be permitted past the security checkpoint and onto the flight.
  - Out of respect for the deceased, screening officers will not be allowed to open cremation containers at any time, even if requested to do so by the passenger, nor will they inspect the contents if the container is opened by the passenger.
  - If x-ray screening of a cremation container results in an alarm but the passenger states the container is empty, the screening officer can ask the passenger to open it so that he or she can look inside and verify there are no prohibited items.

### **Key points to communicate to your members:**

- Ensure members are aware of the new regulations so that they can prepare to offer appropriate advice.
- Members should provide options to those who expect to travel by air with a cremation container, as outlined below.
- Ask members to agree to transfer cremated remains from temporary to permanent containers in such cases as a complimentary customer service (= status quo in the United States)
- Encourage members to include information in any documentation handed out to families (including the attached CATSA info sheet) and provide information on their respective websites.
- To ensure consistent messaging during the next few weeks, CATSA could supply other products (such as short newsletter articles) to be used by your members, upon request.

### **Key messages for funeral professionals to convey to families flying with cremated remains:**

- If you are planning to travel by air with cremated remains—whether as carry-on or in checked baggage—you should use a container that airport security screening officers can scan clearly using an x-ray machine.
- Plastic, cardboard and cloth containers are most likely to pass the x-ray inspection and be permitted past the checkpoint.
- Metal, granite and ceramic containers are least likely to pass the x-ray inspection and be permitted past the checkpoint.
- We strongly recommend you transport remains in a temporary or permanent container made of a light-weight material—such as plastic, cardboard or cloth—that is more easily scanned when going through airport security.
- Temporary containers are available from funeral homes and offer a security-friendly means to travel by air with a crematory container.
- If you wish to travel with a permanent container made of a heavier material, you should pack it, open and empty, in your checked baggage.
- When you arrive at your final destination, ask a local funeral home to transfer the remains from the temporary to the permanent container.
- (If possible, please offer families contacts of a local funeral home, clergy person or consumer group that provides this service.)
- To facilitate the security screening process, do not place any additional items—such as a kirpan—inside the container until after you reach your destination. If the x-ray machine identifies an object inside the urn and the screening officer cannot clear that item, the cremation container will not be allowed through the security checkpoint.
- If security cannot clear your container, you will have three options at the airport:
  - leave the container with a friend or family member who is not travelling and still at the airport;
  - ask your airline representative to re-book you on a later flight, allowing you time to make other arrangements; or
  - ship the container via mail, cargo or courier. Please keep in mind that shipping options vary at airports.
- Not all airlines allow cremated remains in checked baggage, so please consult your airline before attempting to transport these in checked baggage. Similar to carry-on items, urns in checked bags are also screened using x-ray technology and must pass a security inspection.