

Prohibited in pink: woman with pink gun arrested at Richmond International Airport

After TSA spots the deadly weapon at one of the airport checkpoints

RICHMOND, Va. – A Hopewell, Virginia, woman was arrested at Richmond International Airport on Monday, May 7, after a Transportation Security Administration (TSA) officer found a loaded semi-automatic handgun in the traveler's carry-on bag.

The hot pink colored handgun was loaded with eight pink-tipped bullets, including one in the chamber. A TSA officer who was staffing the checkpoint X-ray monitor detected the 9 mm firearm inside the woman's carry-on bag as it entered the X-ray machine.

TSA officials notified the airport police, which responded to the checkpoint, confiscated the gun and arrested the woman on weapons charges. She was ticketed to fly to John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York.

All guns, regardless of their color, are prohibited from being brought onto aircraft, even pink ones.

As a reminder, individuals who bring weapons to the checkpoint are subject to federal civil penalties of up to \$13,000. This applies to travelers with or without concealed gun carry permits because even though an individual may have a concealed carry permit, it does not allow for a firearm to be carried onto an airplane. A typical first offense for carrying a handgun into a checkpoint is \$3,900. The complete list of penalties is posted online at [TSA.gov](https://www.tsa.gov).

Passengers are permitted to travel with firearms in checked baggage if they are properly packaged and declared. Firearms must be unloaded, packed in a hard-side case, locked, and packed separately from ammunition. Firearm possession laws vary by state and locality. Travelers should familiarize themselves with state and local firearm laws for each point of travel prior to departure.

TSA has details on how to properly travel with a firearm posted [online](#). Airlines may have additional requirements for traveling with firearms and ammunition. Travelers should also contact their airline regarding firearm and ammunition carriage policies.