



AIRPORT TRAVEL (WITH FIREARMS) & NEW ZEALAND ARRIVAL PROCEDURE

Today, speak to any seasoned traveller and you will know that airplane travel is the most difficult and sometimes trying aspect of any journey. Customer service appears to be an unknown term in the airlines dictionary. And furthermore, it is slightly more complicated when flying with a checked firearm (But only in the sense that it is very difficult to obtain accurate and reliable information on checking firearms). However, if you are knowledgeable of the general requirements, you should have no problem with the process. We take the time here to offer you some basic insight to making the journey to New Zealand from home.

1. Make sure the airline reservation has a note on your reservation that you will be checking a firearm(s) and ammunition, at time of booking or two weeks in advance.
2. Try to obtain the airline's (each airline used on your travel) firearm baggage check requirement – they normally state simply that the firearm is to be unloaded and checked in an airline suitable or approved case, with ammunition checked separately. Keep a copy with your travel documents and reference it if the agent is not sure of their own policy. Be 'helpful' if you can.
3. If the rifle is a bolt action, remove the bolt, and place it in the firearm case – an old sock works well, but **do not put it in any other check-in bag.**
4. Your ammunition should be limited to 40 – 60 rounds. The FAA limit is actually 5kgs, about 10lbs. **Pack your ammo in the factory boxes,** or use ONLY packaging designed specifically for ammo, and keep all in a container of some type so if they ask to see it, and weight it, it is easy for you to find in your luggage. A soft 6 pack cooler case which is perfect in shape and size. **Do not put the ammo in with the rifle case.** (FAA and TSA actually state that this is not a requirement, but the airline typically does).
5. All miscellaneous firearm parts – magazines, slings, scopes, cleaning kits, ANYTHING that looks like a part of used on a firearm, place in your checked rifle case as well. Also knives and other weapon type things. If in doubt, check it.
6. Aim to arrive at the airport 3 hours minimum before departure. Go to the check in desk and advise the agent immediately that you have a firearms(s) and ammo to check, and you may even state that it should be noted on your reservation record.
7. You will be asked to sign a card which states the firearm is unloaded, and then you will place it in the case. They do not ask to see or handle the firearm. Do not forget to lock the case!

8. After you have checked in and received your boarding passes, tell the agent you will stay near the desk and in 15 minutes of so, ask the agent if the firearm went through TSA screening ok.
9. When you are confident it is cleared, proceed through security and head to your gate as normal.

ARRIVAL IN AUCKLAND

Your firearm should be checked all the way through your itinerary; however you will need to obtain your NZ Firearms permit and clear NZ customs in Auckland, before checking in for your domestic flight from Auckland to Palmerston North. So here is this routine...

1. Enter passport control on arrival – they will typically ask you why you are visiting New Zealand and for how long. Simple and truthful answers are the only way to go.
2. Proceed to the baggage claim and on the arrival carousel pick up your checked bags (not firearm case). Use a cart – it's free!
3. Proceed to the Police desk, directly opposite the carousel, where your firearm case will be brought from the plane (it should not be on the carousel).
4. Present your copy of the Firearm Application form to the officer – the one you have applied for online already as per our instructions. They will recover your file and then ask you to open the case to verify the Serial No., stamp your permit, and collect their NZ\$25 fee.
5. With the permit now clear and in hand, proceed to NZ Customs, provide them with your customs arrival form and your cleared NZ Firearms permit.
6. Once you have cleared customs, exit International arrivals turn right. Walk about 30 meters and you will see the Domestic Transfer area on the right. Walk through the chaos of people printing their own boarding passes and line up at the Domestic Check-In. You need to show your passport and boarding pass as you hand over your baggage for your domestic flight to Palmerston North.
7. If you have less than an hour before your flight to Palmerston North is due to depart, then walk (or run) to the Domestic Terminal and check your bags in there. This is often a faster option than trying to check in at the International Terminal.
7. Now proceed to the Air New Zealand Domestic Terminal. **The Domestic Terminal is about a 15 minute walk or transfer ride from the International Terminal.** I suggest that you walk to the Domestic Terminal. You simply follow the green painted line on the walkway and it will lead you to the Domestic Terminal. If the weather is crummy, you can take a free bus. Just ask.