

Heads of Mission and members of their immediate families accompanying them may be exempted from this security examination before boarding a Canadian registered aircraft. Arrangements for such exemption should be made in advance of the intended flight travel by the Head of Mission, or his representative, with the carrier's representative at the airport. Protocol Division will make special arrangements for similar exemptions in Canada for official guests of the Canadian Government.

The air carriers will apply security screening to all other passengers as a condition of passage. Diplomatic couriers and their personal luggage will normally be subject to examination. Diplomatic bags will not be subject to any examination or handling by airlines personnel provided that, in accordance with the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, they "bear visible external marks of their character", and that the diplomatic courier "carries an official document indicating his status and the number of packages constituting the diplomatic bag". To avoid any confusion at the point of examination, diplomatic couriers should identify themselves to the carrier's representative at the time of check-in which should be at least 30 minutes prior to the scheduled time of departure and request the usual exemption for the diplomatic bag. If any difficulties are encountered, the Protocol Division of the Department of External Affairs should be immediately informed.

Diplomatic missions and consular posts in Canada certainly fully realize the necessity of applying to all travellers some or all of the measures described above. Canada accepts its obligations under the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and will continue to assist missions in carrying out their activities in Canada. The air carriers have legal responsibilities to ensure safe and efficient travel, however, and they have found that, in order to carry out these responsibilities, it is necessary to ensure that passengers are subject to examination before boarding.

(b) Decorations

The acceptance by Canadian citizens of foreign orders, decorations and medals, of whatever kind or class, is subject in each instance to prior approval by the Government of Canada, through its Decorations Committee. Requests by foreign Governments for approval for an award to Canadian citizens should be submitted, under cover of a note, through their missions in Canada, several months prior to the date when the award is to be presented. The advance notification is essential as the Decorations Committee meets irregularly and only when a sufficient number of cases may be considered. The note should contain besides biographical notes, present address, employment and position, as much information as possible on the potential beneficiary's achievements related to the award.