

New free baggage allowances: less luggage free of charge

Since the beginning of September 2005, the airlines' free baggage allowance regulations for long-distance flights have been in a state of flux. To be on the safe side, travelers should request information on the current free baggage allowances before leaving for the airport. Due to cost saving measures, some airlines have reduced the weight limits for free-of-charge carriage. Other airlines, such as Lufthansa, have announced that they will maintain their existing generous free baggage allowance for the time being.

Lufthansa passengers can still travel in accordance with the "two piece concept" which includes two pieces of luggage with a maximum weight of 32kg each.

Please find below an overview of the current free baggage allowance changes:



Passengers in Swiss Economy travelling on routes where the piece concept applies (mainly USA/Canada) will have the following baggage allowance as from November 1, 2005:

Number of pieces: 2 (unchanged)

Maximum Dimensions: unchanged

New maximum weight per piece: 23 kg (subject to government approval).

- In case of excess weight up to a total of 32kg (70lb) per piece, a flatrate of EUR 25/USD 25 will be charged; for any additional piece normal excess baggage rates apply.
- Swiss TravelClub Gold and Swiss Circle members (equal to: Star Alliance Gold customers) travelling in Economy Class: 1 extra piece of 32kg (70lb) as part of the free allowance.
- For infants 1 checked piece with maximum dimensions of 115 cm (45 inches) and up to 23 kg (50lb) and one collapsible buggy
- Children and infants with booked seat have the same allowance as adults
- In addition, the flat charges have been aligned with LH with effective date November 1, 2005.

Limitations for passengers travelling in Swiss First and Swiss Business remain unchanged.



A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER 

New free baggage limit in Economy Class on certain Lufthansa long-haul flights

Lufthansa has adjusted the free baggage allowance in Economy Class for travel between Germany and North America, Mexico and Brazil. Since 1 November 2005, the commonly used international civil aviation rate of two baggage items of 23 kg each applies. The new regulation thus replaces the rule of two 32 kg items and applies to Economy Class tickets issued since 1 November 2005. The new free baggage allowance will be applied on the following routes to passengers who begin their travel from Germany:

- to/from USA
- to/from Canada
- to/from Mexico
- to/from Brazil

Travellers who carry along more than the allowed free baggage are charged additional 25 euros per piece. It has to be considered that two pieces, each with the maximum weight of 23 kg are allowed, but not 46 kg in total. For luggage pieces over 32 kg the current excess baggage charges apply. As carry-on luggage it is still allowed to take along an item weighing up to 8 kg. In the case of transit connections operated by various airlines, the free baggage allowance rules of the first airline apply. First and Business Class travellers are not affected by the new regulation.



For all tickets issued 1 November 2005, the following regulations apply within the piece concept from and to USA, Canada, Mexico, Nigeria and other African destinations:

- Economy Class: 2 pieces of baggage up to 23 kg each and max. overall dimensions of 158 cm (first piece of baggage) and 140 cm (second piece of baggage)
- First & Business Class: 2 pieces of baggage up to 32 kg each and a max. overall dimensions of 158 cm
- Flying Blue Platinum and Club 200 members: 2 pieces of baggage up to 32 kg (economy class)

The Weight concept remains for the following African destinations:
Johannesburg, Nouakchott, Pointe Noire, Malabo und Ndjamena



At Air Canada, up to 2 pieces of baggage with a maximum weight of 23kg each can be checked starting 13 October 2005. If only one suitcase is checked, it can weigh up to 32kg. Above 32kg, however, a surcharge has to be paid.



Starting 30 October

Economy class: rule changed to 2 pieces of baggage up to 23 kg each (free of charge). 1 piece of baggage up to 23 kg for infants.

Between 23 kg and 32 kg a surcharge has to be paid:

- from/to USA; Mexico and South America: US\$25/EUR 25
- from/to Canada: CAD 35/EUR 25

HON Circle members and senators: rule changed to 3 pieces of baggage up to 32 kg each

Frequent travellers: 2 pieces up to 32 kg each



EconomyClass passengers: 20 kg	children: 20 Kg	infants: 10 Kg
BusinessClass passengers: 30 Kg	children: 30 Kg	infants: 10 Kg
FirstClass passengers: 40 Kg	children: 40 Kg	infants: 10 Kg
Ethnic passengers: 35 Kg	children: 35 Kg	infants: 10 Kg

Special allowance for scuba baggage up to 15 kg to all destinations (not for children and infants)

FirstClass- und ethnic passengers: Maximum weight of 32 kg for one piece of baggage.



- Economy Class: 2 pieces with a weight up to 23kg and maximum linear size* of 157cm
- For pieces of baggage within the linear size with a higher weight up to 32kg, a surcharge of 25 USD is applied.
- One Pass Elite members: 2 pieces with a weight of up to 32kg and maximum linear size* of 157cm.

American Airlines

Addition To International Maximum Bag Weight Policy Nov 1, 2005

Effective November 1, 2005, American Airlines removed all exception destinations from the recently implemented 23 kg (50lb) Maximum International Checked Bag policy. The 23 kg (50lb) Maximum International Checked Bag policy now also includes:

- Bogotá (BOG)	- San Petro Sula (SAP)
- Cali (CLO)	- San Salvador (SAL)
- Managua (MGA)	- Santiago (STI)
- Medellin (MDE)	- Santo Domingo (SDQ)
- Port-au-Prince (PAP)	- Tegucigalpa (TGU)
- Puerto Plata (POP)	

This change in policy will not apply to passengers ticketed prior to November 1, 2005 whose travel includes any of the destinations listed above.

A \$25 USD fee will be charged to bags weighing 24 kg - 32 kg (51-70lbs) for passengers ticketed after November 1, 2005 for the destinations listed above.

The current excess fees will apply for international bags weighing over 70lbs.



For tickets issued after 1 September 2005, the following free baggage allowances apply for all flights operated by KLM and Northwest Airlines from and to Canada, the USA and Mexico:

- Economy Class: 23kg free baggage allowance per piece
- World Business Class: as before, 32kg free baggage allowance per piece
- A maximum of 2 pieces per passenger with maximum linear size* of 158cm is allowed.

If one of the allowed pieces of baggage in Economy Class weighs between 23 and 32kg, a fixed overweight charge of 25 EUR is applied.



- Economy Class to/from Canada, the USA, Mexico and Costa Rica: The maximum weight of 32kg/piece must not be exceeded on any account.
- Instead of the existing regulation of 2 pieces up to 32kg each, the 2 pieces may now only weigh 23kg each. This is valid for all tickets issued from 1 September 2005 for all departures from and to Amsterdam with Martinair and also to/from Germany, Austria and Switzerland if the feeder flight is carried out with our partner KLM.

For Martinair Star-Class passengers, the existing free baggage allowance (2 pieces up to 32kg each) remains unchanged.



- Irrespective of the free baggage allowance stated on the ticket, the allowed maximum weight will be reduced from 50kg to 32kg per piece.
- Pieces exceeding 32kg will be accepted up to 15 October as a matter of goodwill; from 16 October, the piece must be repacked in order to comply with the new regulations.



A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER 

- Economy: 2 pieces at 23kg and a linear size* of maximum 157cm each
- Mileage Plus members (1K, Premier Executive) as well as Star Alliance Gold members: 3 pieces at 32kg and a linear size* of up to 157cm each are allowed
- United First and Business Class passengers: 2 pieces at maximum 32kg and a linear size* of 157cm each

For pieces exceeding 23kg but not 32kg, a fee of 25 USD is charged.



As from now Iberia has modified its hold free baggage allowance on flight origin or destination USA and Puerto Rico.

Business Plus Class: 2 pieces weighing 32 kg each

Economy Class: rule changed to 2 pieces of baggage up to 23 kg each

Excess baggage between 23 kg and 32 kg will be charged with a 25 USD Fee



Effective immediately, Delta has reduced the allowed maximum weight of every piece of checked luggage (transatlantic flights) to 23kg (maximum 2 pieces).

For pieces between 23kg and 32kg, a fee of 25 USD is charged.

The baggage surcharges are based on the actual travel date and not on the issue date of the ticket. They can be modified at any time.



Scandinavian Airlines

- Business Class: The baggage allowance for Business Class passengers, as well as customers traveling to/from Japan, will remain the same with 2 pieces at 32 kg and maximum dimensions of 158 cm for each bag.
- Economy Class/Economy extra: 2 pieces at 23 kg each and maximum dimensions of 158 cm for each bag; the sum of the 3 dimensions must not exceed 158 cm.

A flat rate of EUR/USD 25 or equivalent in local currency will be charged for bags weighing in excess of 23 kg up to a maximum of 32 kg per piece. The normal excess baggage rates apply for additional pieces or baggage weighing more than 32kg and the maximum dimensions for all bags remains the same at 158cm per piece.

* = Linear size means: length + width + height of the piece of baggage.
As of 16 September 2005.