

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

TSA AVIATION SECURITY POLICIES: OPT-OUT OF AIT (“Prison-Style Pat-Down”)

STEP 1

Enhanced Full-Body Pat-Down (Prison-style Pat-Down)

Extremely Rigorous with Front of the Palms to the Point of Resistance at the “Genital Area”

WATCH OUT FOR VIOLATIONS OF YOUR RIGHTS:

- You **HAVE THE RIGHT** to ask for this screening to occur in a private room, or a setting removed from the rest of the travelling public.



If you feel that your rights were violated in any way during the screening process, ask the Transportation Security Officer (TSO) for the name of his/her supervisor, and as many additional details as possible (date, time, names of people involved.) You may also want to ask them to file an incident report. If you experience or have experienced discrimination during air travel, **REPORT YOUR EXPERIENCE TO UNITED SIKHS** at law-usa@unitedsikhs.org or 1-646-688-3525.

STEP 2

Automatic Secondary Screening (Turbans are perceived as an anomaly due to the folds/layers):
Explosive Trace Detection (ETD Test)

WATCH OUT FOR VIOLATIONS OF YOUR RIGHTS:

- You **MUST** be provided with three options for the ETD Test (Chemical Hand Swab with either Self Pat-Down of Turban, TSO Pat-Down of Turban, or Private Screening with option 1 or 2.)
- You **NEVER** have to allow the screener to touch your turban under any circumstances. You may always perform the pat-down yourself.
- Your luggage should **NOT** be rescanned unless there is an issue arising from the x-ray of the bag. Just because you are additionally screened, does not mean your luggage is subject to an automatic re-scan without cause.
- Patkas generally do not fall within the “bulky clothing” policy, and therefore, should not be additionally screened.

STEP 3

Tertiary Screening with Metal Hand Wand

WATCH OUT FOR VIOLATIONS OF YOUR RIGHTS:

- You **DO NOT** have to remove your turban unless the ETD test was triggered.
- If the ETD test was triggered, you may have to remove your turban so that the TSO can check it. You **HAVE THE RIGHT** to ask for a private room with a mirror both for the removal of your turban and so that you may retie your turban.
- **ONLY** your turban should be screened. You should **NOT** be subject to a full-body pat-down
- Your luggage should **NOT** be rescanned unless there is an issue arising from the x-ray of the bag.
- If the TSO asks you to put your turban through the x-ray machine because you triggered the ETD or metal handwand, **YOU HAVE THE RIGHT** to ask the TSO to provide you with private room and they can unravel the turban rather than put it through the x-ray machine.