

# Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

## On Traveling by Air with Advanced Bionics Sound Processors



### Can I travel by plane with my cochlear implant?

Yes. Advanced Bionics has provided this information to make your journey easier.

Bon Voyage!

### Can I travel on planes with my rechargeable batteries?

Yes. As of January 1, 2008, the US Department of Transportation (DOT) adopted regulations for passengers traveling with lithium batteries. As per the regulations, passengers will not be able to carry spare lithium batteries in checked luggage unless it is within a portable electronic device. However, as indicated in the regulations, **any number of spare lithium batteries are allowed in carry-on baggage** if they do not individually exceed 8 grams (~100 Watt hours) of equivalent lithium content.

All Advanced Bionics' Lithium-ion rechargeable batteries (PowerCel Slim, PowerCel Plus and PSP/S-Series batteries) have equivalent lithium content less than 1g each, which falls well within the 8g limit. For reference, the lithium content of our Lithium-ion batteries is as follows:

- Auria PowerCel Slim (CI-5520) & BTE PowerCel Slim (CI-5522) Battery - 0.06 grams
- Auria PowerCel Plus (CI -5540) & BTE PowerCel Plus (CI-5541) Battery - 0.11 grams
- Rechargeable Body-Worn PSP and S-Series Processor (AB-7500) Battery - 0.66 grams

When traveling, protect the battery terminals by using the blue plastic PSP/S-Series battery cover or the PowerCel battery pouches.

For more information:

Advanced Bionics 800-678-2575

US Department of Transportation <http://safetravel.dot.gov/>

### Do I have to turn my sound processor off when the flight crew directs all electrical/digital devices to be turned off prior to take-off and landing?

No. The Federal Aviation Authority (FAA) has confirmed that Advanced Bionics cochlear implant recipients are **EXEMPT** from powering off their sound processors when instructions are given to turn off cell phones, music players or anything with an on/off switch. The FAA regards the cochlear implant in the Hearing Aid category and hence is exempt from being switched off.



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### Do I have to remove my sound processor when going through airport security?

No. Metal detectors and security scanners will not damage the implant or sound processor. However, individuals with a cochlear implant passing through security metal detectors may activate the detector alarm. It is advised that patients carry their "Patient Emergency Identification Card" with them at all times. Cochlear implant users also might hear a distorted sound caused by the magnetic field around the security scanner door or hand-held scanning wand. Turning off the sound processor before passing through security screening will ensure that those sounds, if they occur, are not too loud or uncomfortable. The cochlear implant user may request a full body pat-down and visual and physical inspection of the sound processor in place of the standard metal detector and x-ray procedure.

For more information:

Advanced Bionics (800) 678-2575

[http://www.tsa.gov/travelers/airtravel/specialneeds/editorial\\_1370.shtm#0](http://www.tsa.gov/travelers/airtravel/specialneeds/editorial_1370.shtm#0)

### Should I send the processor through the x-ray machine?

X-ray machines will not damage the sound processor; however, x-ray machines have the potential to damage the electric microphones used in most cochlear implants and hearing aids. Avoid placing these items in cargo luggage or carry-on luggage that are screened with x-rays. During airport security screening, the processor and T-Mic should either be worn through the metal detector or examined by hand.

For more information:

User Guide for the Auria Harmony Processor

Advanced Bionics (800) 678-2575

[hear@customerservice.com](mailto:hear@customerservice.com)

### How can I get a Patient Emergency Identification Card?

If you do not have the identification card from when you first received your cochlear implant, a replacement can be ordered by contacting Advanced Bionics Customer Service.

(877) 829-0026 US and Canada

(800) 678-3575 TTY

[CustomerService@advancedbionics.com](mailto:CustomerService@advancedbionics.com)

### Where can I get more information if I still have questions?

The Bionic Ear Association at Advanced Bionics is available to support you.

[www.BionicEar.com](http://www.BionicEar.com)

(800) 678-2575

[hear@advancedbionics.com](mailto:hear@advancedbionics.com)