

TSA Secure Flight Program
(Transportation Security Administration)

AIRLINE PASSENGER TRAVEL DOCUMENTS MUST BE AN EXACT MATCH TO
PASSENGER IDENTIFICATION DOCUMENTS

Important Information - Effective May 15, 2009

In March, the TSA announced implementation of the Secure Flight Program, which shifts pre-departure watch list matching responsibilities from individual aircraft operators to the TSA and carries out a key recommendation of the 9/11 Commission.

Under Secure Flight, airlines (and travel agents) will gather a passenger's full name, date of birth, and gender when making an airline reservation. The idea behind Secure Flight is to eliminate the possibility of a passenger being mistakenly delayed due to a similar name of someone on the TSA's watch list. By providing the additional data elements of gender and date of birth, Secure Flight will be even more effective in helping prevent misidentification of passengers.

Beginning May 15, 2009, tickets must be issued in the passenger's full name as it appears on the government identification they will be using to fly. If the driver's license and passport have different names, the name on the ticket should match exactly to the identification they will use on the specific trip. This means middle name or initial, and anything else noted on the identification, including things like "Jr."

In the near future, small differences between the passenger's ID and the passenger's reservation information, such as the use of a middle initial instead of a full middle name or no middle name/initial at all, will not be an issue for passengers. Over time, passengers should strive to obtain consistency between the name on their government issued ID and the travel information they use for booking flights. The goal is to eventually, by early 2010, require an exact match. Also note, as of August 15, 2009, passengers will need to include their date of birth and gender when booking reservations.