

Possession/Shipping/Flying with Stun Devices

Federal law generally does **not** regulate the possession or use of commercially available stun guns by civilians; this authority is primarily left to state and local jurisdictions. Most commercial stun guns are not classified as firearms under the National Firearms Act (NFA) or the Gun Control Act (GCA) because they use compressed nitrogen gas, not an explosive propellant, to expel electrodes.

Key federal regulations related to stun guns involve specific situations:

Federal Facilities: Stun guns are generally considered "dangerous weapons" under [18 U.S.C. § 930](#) and are prohibited in federal facilities.

Interstate Travel (by Air): Stun guns are **not permitted** in carry-on luggage. They may be transported in **checked baggage only**, provided they are packed in a manner that renders the device inoperable from accidental discharge (e.g., by removing batteries) and are declared to the airline at check-in.

Mailing: The U.S. Postal Service (USPS) has restrictions on mailing certain hazardous materials, including items with specific types of lithium batteries, but the non-firearm classification means general federal restrictions on mailing weapons may not apply. However, shipping is still subject to the state laws of the origin and destination.

Prohibited Persons: While federal law doesn't broadly ban stun gun possession for felons, convicted felons are often prohibited from possessing "dangerous weapons" as a condition of their post-conviction supervision or by state law, which widely defines stun guns as weapons.

Ultimately, the legality of owning and carrying a stun gun is determined by the specific laws of the state and local municipality. All 50 states now permit civilian ownership to some extent, though some states require permits or have restrictions on concealed carry or use in public places.

Stun Guns/Shocking Devices (From the TSA)

Carry On Bags: No

Checked Bags: Yes (Special Instructions)

Tasers, Stun Guns, and Electro-Shock Weapons (Conducted Electrical Weapons) must be transported in a manner that renders the device inoperable from accidental discharge. Some of these devices are manufactured with lithium batteries.

For more information, see the [FAA Regulations on Batteries](#).

Lithium Batteries in Electronic Devices (From the USPS)

If you're mailing pre-owned, damaged, or defective electronic devices containing or packaged with lithium batteries, you must send them via ground transportation; they are prohibited in air transportation.

These devices must be marked on the outer packaging with the text, "Restricted Electronic Device" and "Surface Transportation Only." [Shipping Lithium Batteries](#)

Pepper Spray

Carry On Bags: No

Checked Bags: Yes?

One 4 fl. oz. (118 ml) container of mace or pepper spray is permitted in checked baggage provided it is equipped with a safety mechanism to prevent accidental discharge. Self-defense sprays containing more than 2 percent by mass of tear gas (CS or CN) are prohibited in checked baggage. For more information, visit [faa.gov](https://www.faa.gov).

We recommend checking with your airline as some may not allow this item in checked bags.

Important Considerations

Airline-Specific Rules: The most important step is to **check with your specific airline before flying**. Many major U.S. airlines (including United, [Southwest](#), Delta, American, and [JetBlue](#)) have policies that **prohibit all self-defense sprays** in both carry-on and checked bags, regardless of TSA rules.

International Travel: International regulations generally do not allow any self-defense sprays in either carry-on or checked baggage, and it may be illegal to possess pepper spray in some countries (e.g., the U.K., Canada).

State and Local Laws: Ensure that having pepper spray is legal in both your departure and arrival locations, as some states and cities have specific laws and restrictions.

1/25/2026 – All Links Checked.