Birds of Prey
Transportation & Compliance
History of Falconry

The art is first thought to have originated in the Far East, with the first recording being as far back as 1700 BC. It is thought falconry reached the British Isles in AD 860...

These extravagant diamond studded falcon hoods are made by Italian jewellery company Tiroler Goldschmied. Prices range from $6,500.00 to $53,400.00.
Global Transportation
Application of the IATA Regulations

- Shippers who ship live animals from listed countries (page 1)
- Members of IATA
- Shippers of CITES animals
Application of the IATA Regulations

- Shippers who ship live animals, whether as cargo or baggage, must comply with the IATA Live Animals Regulations in their entirety, as well as any (additional) government regulations which apply in the state of origin, transit and at destination.
Terms & Definitions

When this symbol appears in a Container Requirement in Chapter 8 of the LAR, it indicates that the use of a rigid plastic pet container with suitable modification to suit the species is allowed.
Compliance

• In the IATA Live Animals Regulations the words “shall” and “must” are used to indicate a mandatory requirement.

• The words “should” and “may” indicate a preferred requirement and are not binding.
Government Regulations

- In the United Arab Emirates Falcons are required to have their own passports
- Issued by the Ministry of Environment and Water, to combat smuggling of the birds.
- The document is valid for three years and costs about $130.
- Between 2002 and 2013, the government issued more than 28,000 falcon passports.
Airline policies for birds of prey

- **Qatar Airways**: Allows you to carry 1 falcon in the economy class, up to a maximum of six falcons.

- **Lufthansa**: Announced in 2014, passengers can take advantage of a patented bird stand the Falcon master which allows VIPs to bring their falcons on board while keeping them nearby in the cabin during flight.

- **Etihad Airways**: First class and business passengers are allowed two falcons per seat, with an extra two birds allowed if an extra seat is purchased. Economy passengers are allowed one bird per seat.

- **Emirates**: Animals are not permitted in the cabin, with the exception of falcons on Pakistan routes only. They need to be small enough to perch on the arm or to fly as passengers.
CITES Regulations

• The IATA Live Animals Regulations are accepted by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) as guidelines in respect to transportation of animals by air and road.
CITES Regulations

• All birds of prey are covered under CITES legislation, which means they must travel to the IATA LAR regulations.

• Specimens not shipped in accordance with the current LAR make the CITES document invalid. (Section 5)
Shipper’s Responsibilities

• Provide accurate and complete documents.
• Provide clear identification of animal(s).
• Give proper species scientific/common name.
• The shipper must inform the carrier of whether the animals are wild caught or captive bred.
• Report correct quantity.
• Comply with LAR requirements.
• Provide food & water supply.
• Furnish feeding/watering/specific instructions.
• Ensure animal is in good health on acceptance.
• Provide a 24-hour contact phone number.
Carrier’s Responsibilities

• Acceptance of shipping containers that meet the current and relevant LAR Container Requirement.
• Provide suitable shelter to protect animal from extreme weather conditions.
• Inform en-route stations of animal shipment.
• Segregate incompatibility loads.
• Advise contact person in case of delay.
• Ensure documentation is complete.
Labelling
Containers for Carriage by Air

- Animals will be accepted for carriage by air only in suitable clean containers (see chapter 8) which must be leak- and escape proof. The container must be constructed in a manner which will permit handling staff to give the necessary attention to the animals without the risk of the animals harming them. For general transport purposes, animals will be carried only in closed containers; carriage in open stalls must be especially arranged with the carriers concerned. (8.1.1)
General Container Requirements For Birds (CR11 – CR23)

• When constructing containers for birds, the normal habits and necessary freedom of movement must be considered.
• For general transport purposes, birds will be carried only in closed containers.
• Crates for birds of prey should have the framing on the outside.
• The container must be suitable to keep the bird inside at all times and protect the bird from unauthorised access.
• Unfledged birds are not permitted to be shipped. i.e. young birds which are still dependant upon their parents for food.
• Container Requirement for Birds of Prey (CR20).
CR 20 - Size

- The normal habits and necessary freedom of movement of the bird species involved will determine the size.
- The height of the container must be sufficient to allow the bird to just be able to stand in a normal position. No head clearance is required for these species because they tend to jump up forcefully if permitted to do so.
- The container or compartment of a container must be wide enough so that the bird can turn round without stretching its wings to their full extent.
- Multiple-compartment containers can be used provided there is sufficient ventilation.
CR 20 - Perches & Roof

• These species can travel safely standing on their feet but small raptors prefer to be off the ground and a wooden block, firmly fixed to the bottom of the container, will allow it to feel secure.
• Must be padded with a soft non-destructible padding.
CR 20 - Ventilation

- Meshed ventilation openings, approximately 2.5 cm (1 in) in diameter must be provided at approximately 5 cm (2 in) distance apart along all four sides of the container. There must be a line of openings near the base large enough to allow some light into the container in order that the bird can see well enough to eat while remaining in semi-darkness. The openings must be covered by external wire mesh but care must be taken that there are no sharp edges present within the container, all edges must be covered with a smooth material.
CR 20 - Feed & Water Containers

- Water containers must be provided, they must be accessible for refilling.
- These birds feed from the floor so do not require food troughs.
- Soldered tin must never be used.
Examples of Falcon Containers
Rigid Plastic Containers - Modifications

- A fixed foothold, blocks or non-slip floor lining must be fixed appropriately to the floor of the container.
- Non-destructible padding must be fixed to the roof.
- The doors and ventilation openings must be baffled with a suitable material to permit air to enter but keep the container in semi-darkness.
- If a container has wheels, they must be removed or inoperable.
- The door hinge and locking pins must engage the container by at least 1.6 cm (5/8 in)
Compliant Bird of Prey Containers
Compliant Bird of Prey Containers
Non-Compliant Containers
Non-Compliant Containers
Non-Compliant Containers
Fines

Fine £3,000
Falcons in the Cabin
A photo of 80 birds of prey on board an airliner in the Middle East
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