

Travel With Ease

Metal-Free Footwear Helps Alleviate Travel Stress

(NAPSA)—When traveling via the world's airports these days, putting your best foot forward often means having to take off your shoes—or does it? According to a recent survey, more than half of U.S. consumers believe it is mandatory to remove their shoes at airport security checkpoints or are unsure if such action is optional.

In fact, according to the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), shoe removal is only necessary if metal—found inside some shoes—is detected at airport security checkpoints. Yet nearly 30 percent of survey respondents believe airport policy mandates shoe removal, while 23 percent are uncertain, and an additional two percent feel it varies by airport.

Why is it so bad to remove your shoes? According to the survey, many Americans find airport shoe removal to be inconvenient (40 percent) and time-consuming (20 percent). Others (11 percent) are embarrassed to remove their shoes or fear getting their socks dirty (nine percent).

To ease travel, especially for business travelers who frequently find themselves at security checkpoints, some footwear companies, such as ECCO, now offer shoes free of metal. Metal is often used in a shoe's mid-sole to provide support for the foot.

More than 90 percent of ECCO shoes are produced with non-metal shanks that provide the same support but are lighter weight and don't set off airport screening machines.

"We understand the stress associated with flying and are



Shoes made without metal are a convenient travel option.

pleased to provide comfortable and metal-free footwear to make the airline travel experience less time consuming and more enjoyable," said Jan Stig Andersen, president and chief executive officer of ECCO U.S.

When searching for shoes for your next business trip or vacation, ECCO offers the following recommendations:

- **Metal-less shoes**—confirm that the footwear does not have a metal shank, so you can eliminate one headache in airport security.

- **Comfort**—You want the shoe to fit your foot; you don't want your foot to have to conform to a poorly fitting shoe.

- **Lightweight**—Light, but supportive shoes will ensure your feet don't get fatigued logging endless corridors through airports, and are easier to pack and tote along.

- **Keep Moving**—On long flights, walk around the plane or conduct in-seat exercises to prevent foot and leg swelling.

To learn more about travel-friendly shoes, visit the Web site at www.buyecco.com.