

Why Bag Checks Delay Security at Scale

Visual Presentation & Operational Analysis

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1. Why Bag Checks Delay Security at Scale

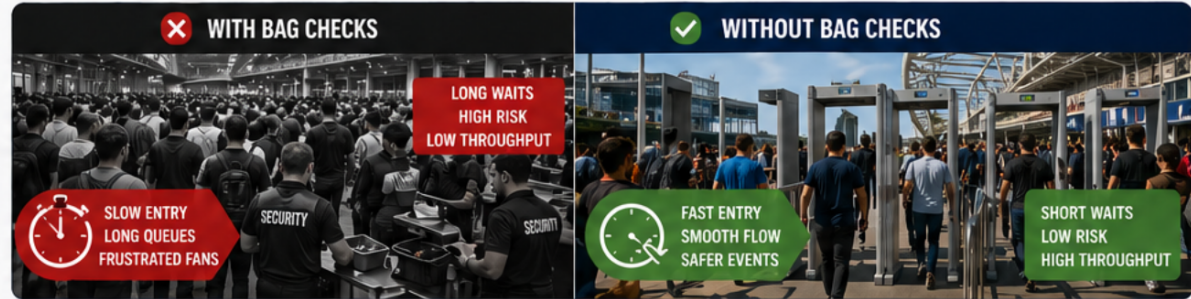
WHY BAG CHECKS DELAY SECURITY AT SCALE (AND WHAT EVENTS GET WRONG)

Bag checks are designed to improve safety.

But at large events, they often do the opposite.

They slow entry, create congestion, and introduce new security risks — especially when demand peaks.

At scale, bag checks don't just delay security. They become the bottleneck that breaks it.



WHAT ARE BAG CHECK DELAYS?

Bag check delays occur when manual inspection of attendee belongings slows down the overall security process.

This typically happens at:

- Stadium security lanes
- Festival entry points
- Arena access gates
- Exhibition and conference entrances

THE RESULT:

- Slower screening times
- Long entry queues
- Backlogs outside venues
- Increased pressure on security staff

WHY BAG CHECKS BECOME A BOTTLENECK AT SCALE

1 MANUAL INSPECTION IS TIME-INTENSIVE



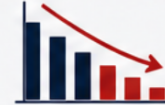
Every bag requires:

- Visual inspection
- Physical search
- Potential secondary checks

Even a quick check adds 10–20 seconds per person.

At scale, that becomes critical:
 1,000 bags = 3–5+ hours of cumulative processing time

2 THROUGHPUT DROPS SIGNIFICANTLY



Compare typical security lane performance:

SCENARIO	THROUGHPUT PER LANE
No bags	400–600 people/hour
With bags	150–250 people/hour

Bag checks can reduce security throughput by more than 50%.

3 SMALL DELAYS COMPOUND RAPIDLY



At peak arrival:

- Even slight slowdowns create queues
- Queues increase pressure on staff
- Staff speed decreases under pressure
- Delays accelerate

This creates a compounding effect where queues grow faster than they can be cleared.

4 VARIABILITY SLOWS EVERYTHING DOWN



Not all bags are equal:

- Small handbags vs large backpacks
- Quick checks vs complex inspections

This inconsistency creates:

- Uneven processing times
- Stop-start flow
- Lane inefficiency

5 SECONDARY HANDLING CREATES MORE QUEUES



Bag checks often trigger:

- Additional screening
- Confiscation processes
- Redirection to cloakrooms

This introduces new queues within the system, further slowing throughput.

WHAT EVENTS GET WRONG

- Relying on bag checks as the primary security control
- Not accounting for the true time cost of bag inspections
- Underestimating peak-time demand
- Insufficient lanes designed for bag inspection
- No plan for secondary screening and redirection



WHAT SMART EVENTS DO INSTEAD

- Remove the bag from the entry process
- Use smart locker systems before security
- Increase throughput and reduce friction
- Design for smooth, continuous flow
- Improve safety and the fan experience

THE BOTTOM LINE



BAG CHECKS DELAY ENTRY



CREATE CONGESTION AND RISK



REDUCE THROUGHPUT BY 50%+



COST MORE, PERFORM WORSE

REMOVE BAG CHECKS. REMOVE THE BOTTLENECK. ENABLE FASTER ENTRY. ENABLE SAFER EVENTS.

2. Why Bag Checks Become a Bottleneck at Scale

THE REAL-WORLD IMPACT OF BAG CHECK DELAYS

Bag check bottlenecks don't just slow entry — they impact revenue, experience, operations and timing.



REVENUE LOSS



Delayed entry reduces:



Time spent inside the venue



Food, beverage, and merchandise spend



Less time inside = less opportunity to spend.



POOR VISITOR EXPERIENCE



Attendees experience:



Long waits



Frustration



Missed event moments



Frustrated fans are less likely to return.



INCREASED OPERATIONAL COSTS



To compensate, venues:



Add more staff



Expand security lanes



Deploy temporary infrastructure



Costs increase — but bottlenecks remain.



EVENT TIMING DISRUPTION



Bag check delays can cause:



Late starts



Staggered entry



Reduced atmosphere at opening



A delayed start impacts the energy and experience for all.



WHAT STARTS AS A BAG CHECK ENDS AS A BUSINESS IMPACT.



THE SOLUTION:

Remove the bag bottleneck. Keep entry flowing. Improve safety, experience and performance — at scale.



PROTECT REVENUE



DELIGHT VISITORS



REDUCE COSTS



START ON TIME

3. The Hidden Risk: Bag Checks Create Security Vulnerability

THE HIDDEN RISK: BAG CHECKS CREATE SECURITY VULNERABILITY

This is the critical contradiction.

 Bag checks are meant to **improve safety**...

 ...but at scale, they can **increase risk**.



WHY?

Because they create:



LARGE QUEUES OUTSIDE VENUES



Crowds build up outside the perimeter, often in public areas with limited control.



HIGH-DENSITY, UNSCREENED CROWDS



Large concentrations of unscreened people increase vulnerability and reduce security visibility.



DELAYS IN MOVING PEOPLE INTO SECURE ZONES



Slow screening means people spend more time outside secure areas, increasing exposure and risk.



INCREASED PRESSURE ON SECURITY OPERATIONS



Overwhelmed staff, fatigue, and rushed decisions lead to higher chances of failure.



UNDER REGULATIONS LIKE MARTYN'S LAW, THIS BECOMES A MAJOR CONCERN.

Martyn's Law requires venues to reduce vulnerabilities and prevent hostile vehicle and crowd-related threats. Large, unmanaged queues outside the venue are a critical vulnerability.



SAFETY IS NOT JUST WHAT HAPPENS INSIDE THE VENUE. IT STARTS BEFORE ENTRY.



THE BOTTOM LINE

Bag checks create the very conditions that attackers look for: crowds, delays, and chaos.



MORE QUEUES
More exposure



MORE DELAYS
More risk



MORE VULNERABILITY
More consequences



HIGHER IMPACT
Greater liability



REDUCING BAG CHECKS = REDUCING RISK.

FASTER ENTRY. LOWER EXPOSURE. STRONGER SECURITY.

4. Why Traditional Fixes Don't Work

WHY TRADITIONAL FIXES DON'T WORK

Traditional approaches treat the symptoms, not the cause.

! The real issue isn't people or process — it's the **bag check bottleneck**.

✗ ADD MORE SECURITY STAFF



⌚ **Limited impact on inspection speed**
Bag checks still take time.

\$ **High cost**
Ongoing recruitment, wages and management.

📈 **Difficult to scale**
Hard to find and deploy large numbers quickly.

✗ INCREASE NUMBER OF LANES



🏠 **Space constraints**
Venues have limited space to add more lanes.

🔒 **Still slowed by bag checks**
More lanes = more queues if each inspection is slow.

👥 **Bottleneck just moves**
Here delay shifts, it doesn't disappear.

✗ TIGHTEN BAG POLICIES



🛡️ **Hard to enforce**
Inconsistent compliance leads to delays and conflict.

👤 **Poor customer experience**
Confusing rules frustrate attendees.

📄 **Doesn't solve the core problem**
Bag checks still happen — just for different bags.

✗ IMPROVE TRAINING



📈 **Marginal gains**
Better technique helps, but time per bag remains.

🕒 **Does not solve throughput limits**
The process itself is the constraint.

🔄 **Improvements plateau**
Small gains can't overcome exponential demand.



THE BOTTOM LINE

Traditional fixes increase cost and complexity, **but they don't remove the bag check bottleneck.**

At scale, these approaches fail to deliver the flow, safety, and experience your event needs.

THE REAL SOLUTION:

REMOVE THE BAG. REMOVE THE BOTTLENECK.

Pre-entry smart locker systems eliminate the root cause and unlock:



FASTER ENTRY



IMPROVED SAFETY



HIGHER CAPACITY



BETTER EXPERIENCE



5. The Scalable Solution: Remove Bags from the Security Process

THE SCALABLE SOLUTION: REMOVE BAGS FROM THE SECURITY PROCESS

The most effective way to improve security flow is not to speed up bag checks. It's to eliminate them from the critical path.



PRE-ENTRY SMART LOCKER SYSTEMS

Smart lockers allow attendees to:

- Store bags before reaching security
- Enter with minimal or no belongings
- This transforms the entire process

FASTER SECURITY THROUGHPUT

With fewer bags:

- Screening becomes faster
- More people processed per lane
- Reduced queue buildup

REDUCED EXTERNAL CONGESTION

- Fewer delays outside venues
- Lower crowd density
- Improved safety

ELIMINATION OF CLOAKROOM QUEUES

- No manual handling
- No tagging systems
- No secondary storage delays

THE RESULT: MORE FLOW. LESS FRICTION. SAFER EVENTS. HAPPIER FANS.

- UP TO 2-3x MORE THROUGHPUT
- SHORTER WAITS HAPPIER ATTENDEES
- IMPROVED SAFETY & COMPLIANCE
- HIGHER REVENUE PER FAN
- LOWER OPERATING COSTS

VPOD
SMARTER STORAGE. SMOOTHER FLOW. STRONGER EVENTS.

6. The Real-World Impact of Bag Check Delays

THE REAL-WORLD IMPACT OF BAG CHECK DELAYS

Bag check delays don't just slow entry — they create a ripple effect that impacts your business, your fans, and your event.



1 REVENUE LOSS

Delayed entry reduces:

- Time spent inside the venue
- Food, beverage, and merchandise spend
- Overall per-cap spend and revenue

Every minute lost at entry is revenue lost for your venue.



2 POOR VISITOR EXPERIENCE

Attendees experience:

- Long waits
- Frustration and fatigue
- Missed event moments (kick-off, key acts, etc.)

A poor first impression impacts overall satisfaction and repeat attendance.



3 INCREASED OPERATIONAL COSTS

To compensate, venues:

- Add more staff
- Expand security lanes
- Deploy temporary infrastructure

Costs increase — but bottlenecks remain.



4 EVENT TIMING DISRUPTION

Bag check delays can cause:

- Late starts
- Staggered entry and uneven flow
- Reduced atmosphere at opening

A delayed start impacts the energy, experience, and flow of the entire event.



BAG CHECK DELAYS DON'T JUST SLOW ENTRY. THEY IMPACT EVERY PART OF YOUR EVENT.



REDUCE BAG CHECK DELAYS. IMPROVE FLOW. INCREASE REVENUE. DELIVER BETTER EXPERIENCES.



7. Operational Impact Before and After

OPERATIONAL IMPACT

When bag checks are reduced or removed:

	SECURITY THROUGHPUT INCREASES BY UP TO 2-3X	More people through each lane, every hour.
	QUEUE TIMES DROP SIGNIFICANTLY	Shorter waits. Smoother arrivals.
	STAFF REQUIREMENTS DECREASE	Fewer staff needed to manage entry points.
	COMPLIANCE IMPROVES	Reduced external crowding supports safety and regulatory requirements.
	VISITOR EXPERIENCE IMPROVES	Faster entry. Less stress. More time enjoying the event.

SMARTER SECURITY. SMOOTHER ENTRY. SAFER EVENTS.
THE DIFFERENCE IS CLEAR.

✗ WITH BAG CHECKS

- LONGER ENTRY TIMES
- LARGE CROWDS OUTSIDE
- LOWER THROUGHPUT
- HIGHER RISK & FRUSTRATION

✓ WITH SMART LOCKER SOLUTION

- FASTER ENTRY TIMES
- REDUCED CROWDS OUTSIDE
- HIGHER THROUGHPUT (2-3X)
- LOWER RISK & HAPPIER VISITORS

THE BOTTOM LINE



Bag checks are essential for safety. But at scale, they:

- ✗ Slow down entry
- ✗ Create bottlenecks
- ✗ Increase external risk



THE SOLUTION IS NOT TO MAKE BAG CHECKS FASTER. IT'S TO REDUCE RELIANCE ON THEM ALTOGETHER.



SEE: </solutions/event-smart-lockers/>



COMPARE: </bag-searches-vs-pre-entry-locker-storage/>



CALCULATE ROI: </roi-calculator/>



REMOVE THE BAG. REMOVE THE BOTTLENECK. ENABLE SAFE, FAST, AND SEAMLESS ENTRY AT SCALE.