

A day in the life



Security and the aircraft's safety features always get a special mention these days.

03.30 Good morning!

My alarm is ringing ... already ..., and it's time to get up for my flight to Tenerife, which is due to leave at 0700 hours. I get ready, put on my uniform and make sure I have my passport and regular papers neatly tucked away in my carry-on bag. We cabin crew have to check in at least 1 hour and 30 minutes before the aircraft is scheduled to leave, so today that means reporting for work at 05.30. In fact, I'm a little early today (there's no traffic at this time) and I catch the staff shuttle bus to the briefing room.

05.15 Fifteen minutes to the pre-flight briefing

I'm 15 minutes early, which is good, because I've got time to check my cabin crew manual to refresh my knowledge of the all-important emergency procedures and the location of the emergency equipment and exits for today's aircraft, a Boeing 757.

05.30 The pre-flight briefing

Today's pre-flight briefing is being held on the aircraft and the senior crew (usually the purser, although the captain is there too) introduces everyone and takes us through the flight details. Usually this covers the order of the services during the flight, the individual positions and responsibilities for the day, and any special points or passengers with special needs. Security and the aircraft's safety features always get a special mention these days and we're sometimes asked one or two questions about emergency procedures. The captain asks a couple today, and I'm pleased to say that I answer correctly.

06.00 Pre-flight preparations for boarding

This is the time for me and my team to check the emergency equipment and make sure there's a safety instruction card in every passenger's seat pocket. Then we double-check the number of meals on board, the usual drinks trolley and duty-free goods and, of course, stock all the toilets with the necessary hand towels and tissues. All of which leaves just enough time to freshen up and get ready to welcome our passengers on board.

Glossary

tucked away carefully put away

traffic cars, buses, etc. on the roads

a shuttle bus a small bus which travels between an airport and a city

to refresh your knowledge of something to remind yourself about something

to stock to fill with supplies

to freshen up to make yourself clean and tidy