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This is the U.S. Department of Transportation Broadcast News Service for Thursday, January 4. The following statement by a Department spokesman concerns the deadline for new anti-skyjacking measures.

"Tomorrow is the first of two deadlines set by the U.S. Department of Transportation for emergency measures to prevent skyjackings of U.S. air carriers.

"Airlines must screen all passengers with electronic devices and also inspect all of their carry-on items at the nation's 531 airports.

"Transportation Secretary John Volpe announced the new rules a month ago at the direction of President Nixon. Secretary Volpe observed then that these measures are necessary 'as a means of preventing acts of piracy, which are showing an increasing disregard for human life.'

"The emergency orders also require a second phase which will become effective on February 6. Airport operators will have to station armed guards at check points for enplaning passengers. And, plans for this part of the program are due January 6.

"The Department's Federal Aviation Administration is responsible for assuring compliance of airlines and airport operators with these security regulations."

This has been the Transportation News Report for Thursday, January 4. For further information call 202-426-0398.

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