



Inquiry into the Aviation Transport Security Amendment (Screening) Bill 2012

To: Committee Secretary
Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
PO Box 6100 Parliament House Canberra ACT 2600 Australia

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the four proposed amendments to the Act and Regulations.

Homeland Security Asia/Pacific Pty Ltd (HSAP) commends the excellent work of the Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee.

HSAP supports initiatives taken to improve airport security!

This includes the expansion of scanner capabilities; and the need to protect each airport worker, the travelling public, aircraft; and airport infrastructure with a replacement value of **\$44-billion**.

Closure of Sydney Airport, for example, due to a terrorist act, would be a \$1-billion-a-week hit on the economy.

HSAP wishes to stress the following points:

- Full body scanners are **NOT** a total solution - simply one element of 'landside' airport security, to be deployed at some international terminal departure gates! A holistic, integrated solution is required.
- There is **NO** single solution to protecting passengers, aircraft, the workforce and infrastructure!
- US Intelligence is in possession of a step-by-step handbook on how to penetrate an airport workforce and perpetrate terrorist acts! It was recovered from Osama bin Laden's home, after he was eliminated and provides a simple guide to would-be terrorists on how to carry out atrocities at airports.
- It is possible to smuggle a readily available item, which is also a lethal weapon, onto any flight, concealed in cabin baggage, including laptops, mobile phones and other devices.
- Other threats not addressed by full body scanners include: modified mobile phone four-shot guns and two-shot key ring guns! Mobile phones are capable of detonating a bomb in checked luggage. A pressure bomb secreted in a cargo hold can be detonated remotely

RESPONSE TO PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

- (1) *Allow aviation screening officers to assume that a person who presents at an aviation security screening point consents to any screening procedure, with the exception of a frisk search, unless the person expressly states their refusal to undergo a particular screening procedure;*

COMMENT: Regardless of regulations, there will always be passengers who will refuse to conform.

Refusal will undoubtedly cause delays, heated arguments, possibly violent outbursts, unrest for other passengers and create public safety risks and a threat to the safety and security of airport workers.

ACTION REQUIRED: To mitigate adverse passenger reaction, HSAP recommends clear signage, including a stick-image outline, be placed well before entering each screening area! This would help make passengers well aware of requirements.

CCTV should be deployed to monitor the approach to full body scanners, to capture images of anyone who balks and walks away.

Each full-body scanner should be surrounded by bomb-blast walls, designed to reduce the impact of an explosion, triggered by a 'home grown' terrorist deliberately targeting a terminal. Such a disaster would gain maximum impact and worldwide media coverage.

- a. Prescribe that a randomly selected person who refuses to undergo a screening procedure will not be granted clearance and will be unable to pass through the screening point;*

COMMENT: Screening personnel can expect verbal abuse and possibly extreme behavior when any passenger is denied access to a flight! (Some ethnic groups travelling to the Middle East are extremely rude and demand to take excess baggage on board). Processing such highly emotional people is difficult work for ground staff.

- b. Repeal the current provision allowing passengers to request a frisk search as an alternative to another screening procedure;*

COMMENT: Frisk searches should remain a secondary option.

- (2) List the types of equipment that may be used for aviation security screening purposes, including metal detection, explosive trace detection and active millimeter wave body scanning equipment.

COMMENT: It is essential to designate and list approved equipment! To maximize pre-departure passenger screening, biometric facial recognition technology, used to match arriving international passengers against watch lists, should be integrated into full body scanner units.

Yours Faithfully

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CEO

19 March 2012

Ref: RH/MR/JH/ Senate

