

High-Level Principles for the New EU Testing and Certification System for Aviation Security Screening Equipment

Introduction

To address the growing challenges in European aviation security, a comprehensive and efficient testing and certification framework is essential. The European Commission must take full responsibility for overseeing the system, ensuring a unified, transparent approach. This framework will not only improve security but also enhance operational efficiency in airports and across the air transport sector. Additionally, it will support global aviation security improvements by facilitating mutual recognition of testing results outside the EU, directly by third countries or indirectly through supranational collaboration forums..

Key Principles:

1. European Commission Leadership and Financial Empowerment

- To effectively deliver on its aviation security policy objectives, **the European Commission should hold full responsibility for granting and revoking certifications** for security equipment. Within the test framework, responsibilities and liabilities must be clearly assigned, **ensuring clarity, certainty**, and consistency across the system.
- To ensure a unified approach, the responsibility for **overseeing and coordinating the testing** of airport security screening equipment must also rest firmly in the hands of the European Commission.
- To manage the testing and certification regime effectively, the **European Commission must be adequately funded** to support its development, implementation, and ongoing operation.

2. Independent Expert for Definition of Testing Requirements and Certification Decisions

- The **European Commission** should rely on a **group of independent experts** responsible for developing **testing methodologies** to demonstrate that security equipment is meeting the detection standards, ensuring that the criteria for certification remain consistent, robust, and aligned with evolving security needs.
- The European Commission must ensure the **swift development of testing methodologies for all security equipment** covered by aviation security policies, providing manufacturers with a clear pathway to market and encouraging ongoing research and development.
- These **experts should also review testing results** from accredited laboratories to ensure impartiality in certification decisions

3. Vulnerability Management Post-Certification

- A clear and transparent process for addressing **vulnerabilities discovered after certification** must be established. This process should allow for quick action to suspend or revoke certifications when necessary.

- **Manufacturers** of security equipment should have the **opportunity to defend their rights and challenge decisions** to suspend or revoke certifications, ensuring fairness and fostering confidence in the system while ensuring continuous protection from evolving security risks.

4. **Laboratory Accreditation and Qualification**

- **Laboratories must be accredited by the European Commission** or regional partners based on a transparent, objective methodology. The system should allow **any qualified laboratory**, including private entities, to apply for accreditation. This will expand testing capacity and accelerate the adoption of new security technologies. However, **specialized tests will remain restricted to laboratories with the necessary facilities** and expertise with laboratories possessing the necessary expertise.
- **Accredited laboratories should be required to follow a strict internal quality control system** and be subject to regular **auditing and supervision** by the accreditation authority.
- The testing of security equipment is based on **classified standards, processes and documents**. As a result, **accredited laboratories** must be required to comply with strict **requirements regarding the handling and dissemination** of sensitive information.

5. **Manufacturers' Direct Access to a Transparent Testing Capacity**

- A public list of accredited test centers, including their capabilities and capacity, should be maintained. **Manufacturers should have the right to apply directly to laboratories of their choice** for testing, facilitating faster turnaround times and encouraging innovation