Project Title:	Strategies for Developing an Aviation Worker Screening Program
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BACKGROUND

In April 2023, TSA-NA-23-02 was issued to airports and became effective in September 2023. The National Amendment requires Category X, I, and II airports regulated under 49 CFR 1542.103(a) to conduct aviation worker screening in a random continuous manner. Screening is intended to deter insider threats by establishing an expectation that workers could be screened any time they enter a Secured or Sterile Area.

Circumstances vary widely among airports and they must establish policies and practices that are best suited to their specific needs. As most airports did not have aviation worker screening programs in place at the time of the NA, there is little guidance available to assist airports in this enormous task. During the period of Informed Compliance, many airports are seeking information to enable informed decision making and ensure effective and efficient practices.

Since the period of Informed Compliance is set to end in September 2024, timely research and guidance development is essential to help airport operators effectively and efficiently implement this new screening requirement.

OBJECTIVE

The objective of the research is to create a comprehensive resource of information and guidance to assist airports in establishing their aviation worker screening program. Outreach and data collection is needed to understand the essential decision points, associated challenges, and potential options and strategies to address them. At a minimum, the guidance should address:

- Utilizing direct employees vs. contract employees to conduct screening
- Selecting screening methods (manual and technological)
- Establishing standard operating procedures, including alarm resolution procedures
- Determining prohibited items beyond those specified in the NA
- Evaluating access points
- Establishing a reasonable expectation of screening
- Efficient record keeping as required in NA and 49 CFR 1542.5(b)
- Communicating with stakeholders
- Cost considerations
- Legal considerations