NATIONAL SAFE SKIES ALLIANCE, INC.
ASSIST Program Host Airport Testing Process

Safe Skies' ASSIST (Airport Security System Integrated Support Testing) Program supports independent evaluations of perimeter, access control, and biometrics technologies that may benefit airports. The following sections outline the process of a typical ASSIST project conducted at an airport.

Initial Site Visit
Members of the Safe Skies test team will meet with you at your airport. During this meeting, which generally takes 2–3 hours, we take a tour of the airport with you to look at the locations you are most concerned about, and discuss any logistical challenges with testing in those areas. We will also discuss the technology classes that may meet your needs. We encourage all project stakeholders at the airport (e.g., maintenance, IT, operations, legal, etc.) to attend this site visit or the Vendor Site Visit later in the process to resolve any concerns before testing begins.

Liability Waiver
Early in the process, we will send you the ASSIST 3-Party Liability Waiver, which basically states that everyone is responsible for their own liability, except in cases of gross negligence. The airport's legal team can review the document, tracking changes. After you return it to us, we will contact you to resolve any differences.

Vendor Selection
After the airport has chosen a testing location and a technology class, Safe Skies will provide a list of potential systems for evaluation. The airport is encouraged to select up to three systems to test at one time. We will then contact the selected system vendors and, if they are interested in participating, begin the paperwork process with them. After they have signed an MNDA, they will then be informed of the airport where the evaluation will take place, and we will send them the airport-approved Liability Waiver for their completion and signature.

Vendor Site Visit
Once the paperwork is completed, we will conduct another site visit with each vendor. This meeting typically takes 2–3 hours. The vendor will give a basic presentation to the airport (not a hard sales pitch), and then visit the testing location to discuss any challenges.

System Installation and Team Badging
Shortly after the vendor site visit, we will schedule the system installation, and if needed, the test team will complete the SIDA badging process. Our staff is very familiar with airport security regulations and have been badged at multiple airports. Our goal with conducting any evaluation is to be as unobtrusive as possible to the host airport, so we are happy to escort vendors during the installation. Installation typically takes 1 week.

Test Conduct
After installation, we allow about 1 week for system burn-in, where the vendor can monitor their system and make any necessary adjustments to it before they sign it over to us for evaluation. Testing will then be conducted over the course of about 2 weeks, and will be tailored to meet airport's needs and operational concerns as discussed at the Site Visits. We welcome airport staff to observe the systems during testing. The systems will be removed after test completion.

Report(s)
Within two months of test completion, or sooner at the airport's request, Safe Skies will issue a report to the airport for each system evaluated. This document will describe the tests that were conducted and how the system performed. The report will also be made available to Airport Security Coordinators at all US commercial service airports. Each vendor will be provided with a briefing that describes the results of their system's testing, with the agreement that they may not use the results for marketing.

Contact Us

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