



How Terminal B at LaGuardia Airport Enhanced Staff Safety and Security With Innovative “Safe Distance – No Pat Down” Screening Technology

The Challenge: Improving Airport Employee Security in the COVID-19 Era

Terminal B at LaGuardia Airport (LGA) is one of the nation’s busiest hubs for air travel. Prior to COVID-19, it processed over 15 million passengers, and it also is home to scores of retail businesses and thousands of airport employees and contractors.

Although invisible to the traveling public, screening of airport employees is an important security requirement. Airports need to ensure that staff do not bring prohibited items into the secure areas of an airport, and deter theft and smuggling. However, the need for security must be balanced against staff health and safety requirements, especially in the era of COVID-19.

LaGuardia’s New Terminal B and The Need for Effective, Safe Distance Screening

The new Terminal B at LaGuardia, currently operated by LGP, is one of the largest and most ambitious airport development projects ever. Valued at \$5.1 billion (including \$4 billion in construction value) the Terminal B Redevelopment is the largest public-private partnership in US aviation history.

The redesigned facility is at the leading edge of airport design worldwide, and incorporates numerous innovations to improve passenger and employee satisfaction, including in areas related to health and safety, which have become especially important in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

One such innovation is in the area of airport employee screening. LGP screens its Terminal B employees for dangerous or illicit items as part of its overall security requirements. Prior to the outbreak of COVID-19, one of the most common methods of screening airport employees was the use of hand-held metal detectors or “wands”. This technique always had disadvantages for employees and airport staff – it was slow, intrusive, and ineffective in detecting non-metallic items.

But with employee health and safety foremost on everyone’s mind, such “close proximity” searches were now also seen as an unacceptable risk. TLGP wanted to implement a contactless technology that improved airport security and employee productivity, while reducing the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

LGP’s choice of ThruVision technology for Terminal B demonstrates a commitment to building a safer new “contactless” security checkpoint that is purpose-designed for the post COVID-19 world.

Ready to learn more?

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The Solution: Thruvision's Safe distance, No Pat Down Employee Screening Technology

LGP Management at Terminal B considered a number of solutions to address its requirements before ultimately selecting Thruvision's contactless, stand-off people screening technology.

Thruvision removes the need for the close proximity physical search resulting from using walk-through metal detectors or AIT body scanners, and allows security officers and employees to maintain a safe distance from one another.

"The current COVID-19 global pandemic means that the global aviation industry is urgently seeking to identify new technologies and measures to reduce physical contact between security officers, passengers and airport workers", said Kevin Gramer, Vice President of Thruvision, Americas. "LGP's choice of Thruvision technology for Terminal B demonstrates a commitment to building a safer new "contactless" security checkpoint that is purpose-designed for the post COVID-19 world."

An essential new technology enabling the safe reopening of passenger aviation in the US, Thruvision uses its patented passive terahertz technology to measure the thermal energy emitted by an employee's body from a safe distance of 10 feet. An item concealed in clothing blocks that body energy reaching the sensor, meaning a security guard can see it and ask the employee to remove it themselves. Metallic and non-metallic items are reliably detected and it is impossible to tell an employee's age, gender or ethnicity from the Thruvision image, often termed the "green ghost".

The Result: An Airport Employee Screening Solution Worthy of the New Terminal B. LGP's redeveloped Terminal B opened to the public in June 2020, with Thruvision's screening technology installed as a key part of its security and safety protocols. And after several months, the results have been overwhelmingly positive. "To date the project has gone extremely well," comments Thruvision's Kevin Gramer. "The entire Terminal B team has worked hard to improve the employee screening process in a way that sets an example for the entire aviation industry."

About Thruvision

Thruvision is the leading provider of next generation "safe distance" people-screening technology. Using patented passive terahertz technology, Thruvision is uniquely capable of detecting metallic and non-metallic threats including weapons, explosives and contraband items that are hidden under clothing at distances of between 8ft and 25ft. Addressing the urgent need for effective contactless people security search, Thruvision has been vetted and approved by the U.S. Transportation Security Administration. Deployed in 20 countries around the world, Thruvision focuses on aviation and mass transit security, customs and border control, facilities and public area protection, and border control and retail distribution centre security markets. Thruvision has offices in Washington, D.C. and near Oxford, UK.

For more information, please visit www.thruvision.com.



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