

TSA Airport Screening

What to expect as you go through security:

- You will be directed to pass through *either* a magnetometer OR an Advanced Imaging Technology (AIT) unit.
 - If you pass through a magnetometer and the alarm is triggered, you will receive a thorough pat-down by someone of the same gender.
 - If you are directed to pass through an AIT, you may opt out.
 - If you choose to opt out, you will receive a thorough pat-down by someone of the same gender.
- In either case where a pat-down is required, you have important rights that we want you to be aware of:
 - You have the RIGHT to request that the pat-down be conducted in a private room.
 - You have the RIGHT to have the pat-down witnessed by a person of your choice.

Are AIT machines safe?

- Yes. Advanced imaging technology screening is safe for all passengers- including pregnant women and children- and has been evaluated by the Food and Drug Administration, National Institute for Standards and Technology and Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory. All results confirm that this technology is safe. A person receives more radiation naturally each hour than from one screening with a backscatter unit. In fact a traveler is exposed to less radiation from one AIT scan than from two minutes of an airline flight.

Can individuals with internal medical devices go through AIT machines?

- Absolutely. AIT is safe for all passengers including those with medical devices.

Can AIT machines detect powered explosives or gels?

- Advanced imaging technology can detect both metallic threats – which a metal detector would pick up – and non-metallic threats – which a metal detector would not pick up. This includes explosive material that can take the form of powders, liquids and gels and be used in an improvised explosive device made up completely of non-metallic material.

What privacy protections are in place for AIT screening?

TSA ensures the privacy of the public through the following measures:

- All images generated by imaging technology are viewed in a walled-off location that is not visible to the public.
- The officer assisting the passenger cannot view the image, and the officer viewing the image never sees the passenger.
- Imaging technology in airports cannot store, export, print, or transmit images.

- All images are deleted from the system after they are reviewed by the remotely located operator. The operator cannot view the next image until the previous one is deleted.
- TSA has implemented additional privacy features that blur certain areas on all images.
- No cameras, cellular telephones, or any device capable of capturing an image is permitted in the resolution room. If an officer uses such a device he/she would be fired.

Will everyone receive a pat down?

- The best way to be prepared at the checkpoint is to remove everything from your pockets prior to screening. Also, if you have a hidden medical device, you may want to bring it to the officer's attention before screening.
- Passengers may receive a pat-down to resolve alarms at the checkpoint; if a passenger opts out of advanced imaging technology screening; or if an anomaly is detected during screening with advanced imaging technology. Pat-downs are conducted by same gender officers and all passengers have the right to request private screening at any time in the screening process.