OPERATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE PLANNING OF PASSENGER SECURITY CHECKPOINTS AT AIRPORT TERMINALS

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ABSTRACT

The recently heightened level of security alertness at airports has created several problems to airport planners and operators. Restrictions on specific carry-on items and public access to gate areas, combined with the critical need to maximize the operational efficiency of the passenger terminal and the wish to increase non-aeronautical revenues, have created a conundrum that is attracting the attention of airport professionals and researchers all over the world. Finding the right balance between security, operational efficiency and profitability is the objective of planning passenger security checkpoints. It must take into account the security requirements by aviation authorities; the location of the checkpoints; the restrictions on public access to gate areas; and the physical and operational layout of the checkpoints to maximize passenger throughput while meeting security requirements. This paper will discuss all these issues and make recommendations for best practice in the planning and design of security checkpoints.