



Violations and Fines at Security Identification Display Areas of Airports

Fiscal Year 2024 Report to Congress

January 14, 2025



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Message from the Administrator

January 14, 2025

I am pleased to present the following report, “Violations and Fines at Security Identification Display Areas of Airports,” prepared by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA).

This report was compiled under section 3403(c)(2) of the *FAA Extension, Safety, and Security Act of 2016* (Pub. L. No. 114-190), signed into law on July 15, 2016. It discusses TSA findings of civil violations involving incidents that had an actual or potential adverse effect on the integrity of the Security Identification Display Area of an airport during fiscal year 2024.

This report is provided to the following Members of Congress:

The Honorable Mark E. Green
Chairman, House Committee on Homeland Security

The Honorable Bennie G. Thompson
Ranking Member, House Committee on Homeland Security

The Honorable Ted Cruz
Chair, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

The Honorable Rand Paul
Chairman, Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

The Honorable Gary C. Peters
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Please direct inquiries to me at (571) 227-2801 or TSA’s Legislative Affairs office at (571) -227-2717.



Sincerely,

David P. Pekoske
Administrator



Violations and Fines at Security Identification Display Areas of Airports

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I. Legislative Language

This report is submitted under section 3403(c)(2) of the *FAA Extension, Safety, and Security Act of 2016*, Pub. L. No. 114-190 (July 15, 2016).

Section 3403(c)(2) of Pub. L. No. 114-190 states:

(c) NOTIFICATION AND REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Administrator shall—

(2) submit to the appropriate congressional committees an annual report on the number of violations and fines related to unescorted access to the SIDA of an airport collected in the preceding fiscal year.

II. Background

This report covers civil penalty cases the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) closed between October 1, 2023, and September 30, 2024, on violations:

- Involving unauthorized access to an airport's Security Identification Display Area (SIDA), including the secured area, or Air Operations Area
- Involving misuse of a SIDA badge
- By SIDA badge holders in their capacity as such

Report data come from TSA's Legal Integrated Knowledge System (LInKS). TSA uses this system to track legal matters, including civil penalty actions taken to address violations of Transportation Security Regulations.¹ The TSA counsel responsible for handling each case referred for a civil penalty enters that data in LInKS.

LInKS also contains data imported from TSA's Performance and Results Information System. This system tracks regulatory inspections and investigations. It also tracks enforcement actions TSA Transportation Security Inspectors initiate and enter into the system.

¹ Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, part 1500 et. seq.

III. Analysis/Discussion

This report includes information on incidents having an actual or potential adverse effect on the integrity of SIDA access controls and for which TSA either issued an order assessing a civil penalty (a fine) or a consent order. TSA oversees compliance with SIDA security measures at all regulated airports by conducting SIDA inspections and assessing employee adherence to established security protocols.

In fiscal year (FY) 2024, TSA found violations occurred in 316 cases involving an incident having an actual or potential adverse effect on the integrity of the SIDA. Of the 316 cases, TSA assessed a civil penalty for 313 cases and closed three cases with a consent order. In the three closed cases, TSA found a violation but did not assess a civil penalty, either because of an individual’s documented inability to pay a civil penalty or because of the respondent’s corrective action.

The total number of cases for FY 2024 are consistent with the number of cases reported in the past five years, except for the number of cases from FY 2021.² Comparatively, there were 237 cases reported in FY 2023, 295 cases in FY 2022, 150 cases in FY 2021, 325 cases in FY 2020, and 322 cases in FY 2019.

This report does not include incidents in which no finding of a violation occurred. For example, it does not capture cases TSA closed with administrative action such as a warning notice.

Figure 1 provides the total number of violations by type.

Figure 1: Violations by Type

Violation Type	Number of Violations	Example
SIDA Badge Misuse	31	Use of a SIDA badge to circumvent screening or use of another’s SIDA badge
Secured Area Access Control	122	Forced doors, failures to respond to door alarms, or unattended, unsecured doors
Escort Violations	11	Instances in which a SIDA badge holder left a non-SIDA badge holder unescorted in the SIDA, the secured area, or the sterile area
Airport Perimeter	45	Individuals scaling the perimeter fence or crashing a vehicle into the perimeter fence, failure to check ID at a vehicle gate, or failure to maintain the perimeter fence
Control of ID Media	10	Failure to request deactivation, obtain a criminal history record check, or conduct an annual ID media audit

² Most cases TSA processed in FY 2021 correspond to civil violations that occurred during the 2020-2021 downturn in air travel because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Violation Type	Number of Violations	Example
Unattended Aircraft	39	Failure to monitor aircraft or to prevent unauthorized access to aircraft during loading or unloading, or failure to monitor or secure aircraft when unattended
Piggybacking	15	Instances where an individual without a SIDA badge entered the SIDA through a door behind another individual, either with or without that individual's knowledge
Failure to Display SIDA Badge	5	Instances in which an individual failed to display a SIDA badge while in the SIDA
Employee Screening	35	Interference with, or a refusal to, submit to screening or possession of a prohibited item at an employee screening checkpoint
Failure to Challenge	3	Instances when an individual failed to challenge someone in the SIDA who was not displaying a SIDA badge
Total Number of Violations	316	

TSA also accounts for violator type and the number of different violators. **Figure 2** provides the distribution of cases by violator type (air carrier, airport, unregulated business, or an individual).

Figure 2: Distribution of Cases by Violator Type

Violator Type	Number of Cases	Number of Different Violators
Air Carriers	47	25
Airports	22	14
Indirect Air Carriers	2	2
Unregulated Businesses	38	14
Individuals	207	207
Totals	316	262

TSA assessed a total of \$1,321,957 in civil penalties for the 313 cases. These dollar amounts are the civil penalties assessed, not civil penalties collected. In 128 of these cases, the respondent has not paid the civil penalty assessed; 116 were violations by individuals, four by airports, and eight by unregulated businesses. TSA referred these cases to the U.S. Coast Guard's Financial Center for collection. The U.S. Coast Guard Financial Center oversees handling of unpaid civil penalties and forwarding of cases to debt collection. **Figure 3** provides information on the civil penalties assessed by violator type.

Figure 3: Civil Penalties (Fines) Assessed

Violator Type	Total Civil Penalty Assessed	Largest Civil Penalty Assessed	Average Civil Penalty Assessed
Air Carriers	\$590,649	\$40,000	\$12,567
Airports	\$229,658	\$50,000	\$10,936
Indirect Air Carriers	\$9,000	\$7,000	\$4,500
Unregulated Businesses	\$162,015	\$29,900	\$4,264
Individuals	\$330,635	\$20,780	\$1,613
Total Civil Penalties	\$1,321,957		

Additionally, TSA accounts for distribution of cases by airport category (see **Figure 4**). A security category (Cat X, I, II, III, and IV) is a designation given to an airport based on the number of passengers boarding at those airports each year.

Figure 4: Distribution of Violations by Airport Type

Airport Type	Number of Violations
Cat X	161
Cat I	92
Cat II	38
Cat III	24
Cat IV	1
Total Number of Violations	316

IV. Conclusion

In FY 2024, TSA found civil violations occurred in 316 cases involving an actual or potential adverse effect on the integrity of the SIDA, compared to 237 cases in FY 2023. TSA assessed \$1,321,957 in civil penalties for 313 cases. TSA closed three cases with consent orders.