Repair Station Security Fact Sheet

This document provides an overview of security rules applicable to Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)-certificated repair stations and related issues. Consistent with the Transportation Security Administration’s (TSA) stated priority of “threat-informed, information-driven operations,” repair station oversight focuses on the point of greatest perceived risk – where maintenance personnel have access to flyable aircraft on or near an airport.

Repair Station Security
Pursuant to Vision-100, the 2003 FAA reauthorization law, the TSA issued security rules for repair stations in January 2014. Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) part 1554 applies to all FAA-certificated repair stations (except those located on U.S. or foreign government military bases) and require them to comply with TSA Security directives and allow unannounced TSA inspections. In March 2014, ARSA released a compliance checklist to assist the repair station community in meeting the U.S government’s security requirements.

Repair Stations On or Adjacent to an Airport
Under 49 CFR § 1554.101, a repair station located on or adjacent to an airport is required to comply with additional rules and must:
1. Designate a point of contact (POC) for TSA who is responsible for security compliance and must be available 24-hours per day, seven days a week;
2. Restrict access to, and prevent the unauthorized operation of, large aircraft (more than 12,500 lbs.) that are capable of flight.
3. Verify background information for TSA POCs and those having access to the means used to prevent the operation large, unattended aircraft.
4. Maintain records to demonstrate compliance.

Airport Tenants
Under 49 CFR § 1542.113, a repair station that is the tenant of an airport must comply with the airport’s security program. All individuals allowed unescorted access to a Security Identification Display Area (including an employee of a repair station at an airport) are fingerprinted and must pass a background investigation that includes a criminal record check, employment history verification and TSA Security Threat Assessment check against terrorist, immigration and law enforcement databases.

Certificate Suspension/Revocation
Under 49 CFR part 1554, subpart C, the TSA may direct the FAA to suspend or revoke the certificate of a repair station that fails to correct security deficiencies or is deemed an immediate risk to security.

For the aviation maintenance industry, good security is good business. To safeguard customer and company property and protect employees, a variety of security measures above and beyond those required by federal rules are used. These actions include alarm systems, video surveillance, employee security training, perimeter locks, liaison with local law enforcement, employee badging and utilization security guards.

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