



National Cargo Security Program (NCSP) Recognition

100% Inbound Strategy

- TSA's strategy to enable industry to achieve 100% screening of international cargo inbound to the U.S. consists of two key components:
 - Screening and security regulations via the Transportation Security Administration's (TSA's) primary regulatory documents, the Standard Security Programs (SSPs)
 - Recognizing other countries' National Cargo Security Programs (NCSP) to enable air carriers flying directly into the United States to follow only a single program

NCSP Recognition Overview

- National Cargo Security Program recognition will allow passenger air carriers to follow the air cargo security programs of specific countries in lieu of TSA's SSPs if their National Program has been recognized and deemed commensurate with TSA requirements via a system-to-system comparison
- NCSP recognition is a bilateral process and therefore information is mutually shared between the United States, TSA, and the partner country's Civil Aviation Authority
- Appropriate agreement mechanisms need to be in place and all information exchanged is protected in accordance with TSA Sensitive Security Information (SSI) guidelines
- NCSP recognition is valid for three (3) years with continuous government-to-government dialogue throughout this period – significant changes to the program will require a re-evaluation of the NCSP
- NCSP recognition does not replace current TSA compliance activities by Inspectors

NCSP Recognition Benefits

- NCSP recognition provides multiple benefits to both partner countries and industry:
 - Recognizes the similarities in the application of supply chain security programs amongst countries.
 - Reduces the need for industry to apply potentially duplicative requirements under two national security programs while still meeting a commensurate level of security inbound to the United States
 - Allows for the development of flexible supply chain models and acknowledges screening completed further back in the supply chain where applicable
 - Strengthens the relationships between the partner governments and TSA

NCSP Recognition Process

- The recognition process includes three high-level steps:
 1. Document Review: Civil Aviation Authority provides program information related to air cargo acceptance, handling, and screening procedures for cargo transported on passenger or all-cargo aircraft bound for the United States. Program information includes official program documentation as well as relevant legislation, regulation, policies, procedures, and implementation instructions. TSA subject matter experts perform a technical evaluation of a country's air cargo security system that includes a review of a country's air cargo policies
 2. Validation: A site visit is planned to give both parties the opportunity to discuss components of the program and further understand how cargo moves through the country's air cargo supply chain as well as validate the implementation with regulated entities
 3. Decision: A recommendation is made in a report that outlines the critical areas of comparability to senior officials within TSA
- Ultimately the establishment of an agreement between governments confers formal recognition of a country's NCSP

Key Program Elements

- To be considered for recognition, a NCSP must have the following in place:
 - Facility Security: Procedures and mechanisms are in place to prevent unauthorized entry to facilities where cargo is screened, prepared, stored, or transported, including physical barriers and access controls
 - Personnel Security: Processes must be in place to vet and conduct periodic checks on personnel that have access to areas where cargo is screened, prepared, stored, or transported
 - Training: Employees and authorized representatives must receive cargo security and screener training in accordance with the applicable programs and job requirements
 - Cargo Screening: Screening may be conducted through active or passive measures through the use of approved technologies or physical search procedures
 - Chain of Custody: Procedures must be in place to maintain the integrity of screened cargo through the supply chain, including controlled areas, documentation, tamper evident methods, and authentication procedures
 - Oversight and Compliance: Measures must be in place to ensure regulated entities comply with its NCSP

For Additional Information

- Please contact your local TSA Representative (TSAR)