



National Explosives Detection Canine Security Program (K9SP) Recognition

K9SP Recognition Overview

- National Explosives Detection Canine Security Program (K9SP) recognition allows for the use of explosives detection dog (EDD) teams, as an alternative to other screening technologies and procedures, for the screening of goods and people on U.S.-bound flights
- The program must be commensurate with TSA requirements via a system-to-system comparison
- K9SP recognition is a bilateral effort; therefore, K9SP information is mutually shared between TSA and a partner country's Civil Aviation Authority (CAA)
- All information exchanged is protected in accordance with TSA Sensitive Security Information (SSI) guidelines
- K9SP recognition is valid throughout the recognition term, with ongoing collaboration and government-to-government dialogue driving EDD best practices. Significant changes to a K9SP will require TSA to undergo a targeted review and validation process

K9SP Recognition Benefits

- K9SP recognition provides benefits to both partner countries and industry:
 - Enables Air Carriers in recognized countries to utilize EDD teams as a primary screening method
 - Information sharing leads to improvement in the performance of EDD teams in the aviation security environment, and in other environments critical to a strong global security posture
 - Strengthens relationships between partner civil aviation authorities and TSA

Explosives Detection Canine Strategy

- TSA's strategy to recognize a partner country's use of EDD teams as a primary screening resource in the aviation security environment emphasizes three critical components:
 - EDD initial and recurrent certification
 - EDD operational policies and procedures
 - Operational testing protocols and compliance strategies to determine EDD screening effectiveness.

K9SP Recognition Process

- The recognition consideration includes three high-level steps:
 1. **Documents Review:** The appropriate authorities governing the EDD teams provide program information such as EDD certification and training standards, alarm resolution guidelines and EDD team operational procedures for aircraft bound for the United States. K9SP documentation includes relevant legislation, regulation, policies, procedures, and implementation guidance. TSA subject matter experts perform a technical review of the participating CAA's K9SP.
 2. **Validation:** A site visit is conducted to give both parties the opportunity to review components of the K9SP, to further understand how EDD's are deployed and utilized, and to validate K9SP implementation by the CAA and regulated entities.
 3. **Decision:** Analysis and recommendations regarding K9SP commensurability are forwarded to TSA senior leadership. The TSA Administrator ultimately decides to recognize or make recommendations to partner countries. Formal recognition of a country's K9SP is established as a mutual agreement between governments.

Key Program Elements

- To be considered for recognition, a K9SP must outline:
 - **Evaluations:** Program has directives detailing which authority reviews evaluation guidelines and outlining the evaluation cycle. Identifies personnel responsible for conducting evaluations, their level of expertise and their comprehension of K9SP regulations and guidelines.
 - **Training:** Program has initial, proficiency and remedial training requirements to develop, maintain and advance an EDD team's screening capability in their operational environments.
 - **Utilization:** Program outlines EDD teams' screening and alarm resolution procedures in the Aviation Security environment that comply with statutory requirements.
 - **Explosives Training Aids:** Program provides guidance for proper safety, accountability, handling and storage of explosives training aids and has processes to minimize the contamination of aircraft, personnel and other environments where EDD training or utilization may be conducted.
 - **Oversight and Compliance:** Measures such as inspections and operational testing protocols must be in place to ensure a regulated entity complies with its K9SP.

For Additional Information

- Please contact your local TSA Representative (TSAR)