



ICAO

SECURITY AND FACILITATION



The Disposal of Screening Equipment

Technology is a fundamental part of the aviation security system, facilitating the detection of prohibited items and weapons in high volume passenger and cargo environments. Vast resources are invested to improve detection capabilities, lower false alarm rates, speed up processing, and develop future technologies used in airports around the world.

Screening technology, however, is like any other technology. It breaks down, reaches the end of its useful service life, or becomes obsolete and needs to make way for the next generation of equipment. When this happens, it needs to be disposed of. Unlike most other technologies, screening technologies may contain sensitive or protected information, or environmentally hazardous materials, which need to be disposed of in a particular way.

This paper outlines some general guidance on the issues to consider when disposing of screening equipment. It is not exhaustive, nor prescriptive, and does not take into account the specific requirements of any particular organization or State.



Talk to the original equipment manufacturer (OEM) or provider

- In many cases, the original equipment manufacturer (OEM) is the provider of the equipment and should be the first point of contact when considering the disposal of equipment. They will likely be very experienced in the disposal process, and know the local regulatory requirements for disposal.
- In some cases the equipment is provided not by the OEM, but another provider, such as a local agent that also sells other brands.
- Disposal of an OEM's own equipment is usually much easier than that of another's. But, in either case, whoever sold or provided the equipment should be the first point of contact when considering disposal.



Remove sensitive information

- Screening equipment can contain sensitive data in the form of software, algorithms, images, or other information. It is important that these are removed before equipment is disposed of. You may be able to remove some of this information yourself: other information may require the involvement of the OEM, or your equipment provider.



Environmental and safety considerations

- Some types of screening equipment (all X-ray units, some explosive trace detection units, some bottled liquid scanners, for example) contain sources of radiation, which will almost certainly have specific rules governing its operation, movement and disposal. These rules will vary from State to State.
- Typically, however, the equipment end-user must have an appointed and suitably trained radiation safety officer (RSO) within their organization to operate an apparatus that emits radiation.
- When purchasing screening equipment that emits radiation, the vendor should provide a document containing the key details of the equipment (for example, make and model, serial number, generator serial number, tube serial numbers). This information is typically submitted by the end-user to the applicable government regulatory body and must be approved prior to use. When an end-user seeks to dispose of, or sell, equipment with a radioactive source, they must make a submission to the same regulatory body for permission for it to be removed from their license, and provide evidence of the safe disposal of the device.
- Equipment that contains a radioactive source must be disposed of in accordance with the OEMs material safety data sheets (MSDS) and/or applicable government requirements. The end-user should maintain a copy of this important document. For the safety of staff, this must be provided to the organization who is approved, and engaged, to safely dispose of this material, as in many cases specific components may need to be transported back to the place of manufacture for safe disposal.



Cost of disposal

- There will likely be costs associated with the disposal of equipment. These could include the costs of physical removal, complying with health, safety and environmental licensing requirements, and removal of sensitive information. There may be opportunity to include the cost of disposal or replacement with your equipment service contracts, and this is something you may wish to discuss with your equipment provider or the OEM.



Legal considerations

- In some States, specific licenses are required by government agencies to legally sell security equipment. While an end-user may legally own the asset, there may be national security requirements and international export controls in place, to prevent sensitive equipment being accessed by prohibited or undesirable entities.
- In some cases, the equipment provider may also have a legal requirement to maintain a register of the end-user and the location of the equipment.
- The end-user should seek confirmation they have the appropriate approvals to on-sell the unit, and the original equipment provider is the best initial point of contact to confirm these requirements. The original provider may also act as a broker for the resale of the products between approved end-users.



Donating equipment

- In some cases, you may wish to dispose of equipment which still has a useful service life. An organization may be changing over suppliers, or upgrading to reap the benefits of next generation equipment. Equipment may be perfectly serviceable but may no longer meet aviation security requirements in a specific State which are often more stringent than for other screening applications. It may be appropriate to donate that equipment to another entity.
- In proposing the donation of equipment, you may wish to also consider the ongoing cost of support, consumables and maintenance, and who will be responsible for these.
- The equipment provider or the OEM is the best initial point of contact to start these discussions. As indicated above, there may be some specific legal requirements about providing equipment to other States.

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