Contents

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION........................................................................................................2

CHAPTER 2: AIRSIDE SECURITY SIGNS................................................................................3
  Airside area signs................................................................................................................3
  Security Restricted Area signs..........................................................................................5

CHAPTER 3: LANDSIDE AREA SECURITY SIGNS.................................................................6
  Sterile area signs ...............................................................................................................6
  Landside security zone signs ..........................................................................................7
  Screening point signs .......................................................................................................9
  International screening point signs ..............................................................................11
  Checked baggage screening signs ..............................................................................13

CHAPTER 4: COMMON REQUIREMENTS.............................................................................14

CHAPTER 5: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS.................................................................15

CHAPTER 6: FURTHER INFORMATION..................................................................................17
Chapter 1: Introduction

This guidance is to provide operators of security controlled airports and screening authorities with a broad understanding of the security signs required by the *Aviation Transport Security Act 2004 (the Act)* and the Aviation Transport Security Regulations 2005 (the Regulations).

This document is a guide only. Please refer to the Act and the Regulations if further clarification is required, or contact the Department for specific advice.

In this guidance document, all references to a ‘sign’ in the singular includes a reference to the plural.

Security signs at Australian security controlled airports:

- are used to identify where certain areas or zones are in place. For example; signs must be placed at the boundaries or barriers of an airport security area or zone in accordance with any regulation or notice (including associated maps) that have been issued by the Secretary of the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development (the Department).

- outline the security requirements and obligations of people entering a particular area or zone, including the penalties that may apply if certain requirements are not complied with. For example, if a person enters an airside area with an unauthorised weapon, a maximum penalty amount exceeding $10,000 will apply.

- notify people about screening points in operation and that they are providing consent to undergo a screening procedure by passing through the screening point. Without such signs, screening consent cannot otherwise just be implied.
Chapter 2: Airside security signs

Airside area signs

The regulations give industry the option to combine two airside area airport security signs (r3.15) with one airside area airport security sign (r3.15A) (p.4). For requirements relating to airside signs displayed at common or shared boundaries, please refer to the FAQs at the end of this document.

Regulation 3.15—requirements for airside generally

An airport operator must display two types of warning signs—one warning of unauthorised entry to the airside area, and the other warning of unauthorised possession of weapons in the airside area.
Alternatively a combined airside area sign may be used

Regulation 3.15A—alternative requirements relating to signs for airside areas

Rather than display the two types of signs outlined in regulation 3.15, one sign may now be used.

Commonwealth of Australia

WARNING!

Airside area
Unauthorised entry prohibited
Maximum penalty exceeds $5 000

Unauthorised possession of weapons prohibited
Maximum penalty exceeds $10 000

Security Restricted Area signs

An airport operator must display a sign warning about unauthorised entry to, and unauthorised possession of weapons in a security restricted area (SRA).

For signage requirements relating to common or shared boundaries between the SRA and airside areas, please refer to the FAQs at the end of this document.

New requirements for SRA signs

- From 30 November 2016, SRA signs will require an additional reference to warn about ‘unauthorised possession of weapons’.
- A three-year transitional period for this change ends on 30 November 2019
Chapter 3: Landside area security signs

Sterile area signs

Regulation 3.20—security requirements for sterile areas

An airport operator must display a sign warning about unauthorised entry to, and unauthorised possession of weapons and unauthorised possession of prohibited items in a sterile area.

Commonwealth of Australia

WARNING!
Sterile area

Unauthorised possession of weapons or prohibited items prohibited
Maximum penalty exceeds $10,000

Unauthorised entry prohibited
Maximum penalty exceeds $5,000

Landside security zone signs

The new regulations give industry the **option to replace** three existing signs (fuel storage zone (r3.22), air traffic facilities zones (r3.23) and navigational aids zone (r3.24)) shown below with a generic landside security zone sign (r3.24A) (p.8).

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**Regulation 3.22—security requirements for fuel storage zones**

An airport operator must display a warning sign about unauthorised entry to, and the unauthorised possession of weapons in fuel storage zones.

**Commonwealth of Australia**

**WARNING!**

**Fuel storage zone**

Unauthorised entry prohibited

Maximum penalty exceeds $5 000

Unauthorised possession of weapons prohibited

Maximum penalty exceeds $10 000


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**Regulation 3.23—security requirements for air traffic control facilities zones**

An airport operator must display a warning sign about unauthorised entry to, and the unauthorised possession of weapons in air traffic control facilities zones.

**Commonwealth of Australia**

**WARNING!**

**Air traffic control facilities zone**

Unauthorised entry prohibited

Maximum penalty exceeds $5 000

Unauthorised possession of weapons prohibited

Maximum penalty exceeds $10 000

An airport operator must display a warning sign about unauthorised entry to, and the unauthorised possession of weapons in navigational aids zones.

Alternatively a generic landside security zone sign may be used

Rather than display the fuel storage zone sign (r3.22), the air traffic control facilities zone sign (r3.23) and/or the navigational aids zone sign (r3.24) shown above, an airport operator can instead choose to display a warning sign about unauthorised entry to, and the unauthorised possession of weapons in landside security zones. Note that this sign is not applicable to the sterile area sign (r3.20).

New requirements for landside security zone signs

- From 30 November 2016, all fuel storage zone, air traffic facilities zone and navigational aid zone signs will need to be replaced or existing signs amended to remove unenforceable references to unauthorised possession of prohibited items.
- A four-month transitional period for this change ends on 30 March 2017.
Screening point signs

The regulations give industry the option to combine two screening point airport security signs (r4.18 and r4.18A) into a combined security sign (r4.18B) (p.10).

**Regulation 4.18—signs to be displayed at places of screening of passengers and carry-on baggage**

A screening authority must display a warning sign about a screening point in operation and advising that weapons and prohibited items must not be taken past that point without authorisation.

**Commonwealth of Australia**

**WARNING!**

Screening point in operation

Weapons and prohibited items must not be taken past this point without authority

Maximum penalty exceeds $10 000


**Regulation 4.18A—signs to be displayed at operating screening point**

A screening authority must display a warning sign about a screening point in operation and advising that a person at the screening point is taken to have consented to undergo screening procedures.

**Commonwealth of Australia**

**WARNING!**

Screening point in operation

A person at this screening point is taken, by law, to have consented to undergo a screening procedure (except a frisk search), unless the person refuses to undergo the screening procedure. A person who refuses to undergo a screening procedure will not be allowed through the screening point.

Alternatively a combined screening point sign may be used

Rather than displaying both screening point signs (r4.18 and r4.18A), and if the screening point is not a liquids, aerosols and gels screening point, a screening authority may display a combined sign warning about a screening point in operation, and advising that weapons and prohibited items must not be taken past that point without authorisation, and advising that a person at the screening point is taken to have consented to undergo screening procedures.

Commonwealth of Australia

WARNING!
Screening point in operation

A person at this screening point is taken, by law, to have consented to undergo a screening procedure (except a frisk search), unless the person refuses to undergo the screening procedure. A person who refuses to undergo a screening procedure will not be allowed through the screening point.

Weapons and prohibited items must not be taken past this point without authority

Maximum penalty exceeds $10,000

International screening point signs

The regulations give industry the **option to combine** two screening point airport security signs (r4.18, r4.18A) and one international screening point airport security sign r4.22P(1), into one international screening point airport security sign (r4.22P(2)). (p.12).

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**Regulation 4.22P(1)—sign at liquid, aerosol and gel screening point**

A screening authority must display a warning sign about an international screening point in operation and advising that a person at the screening point must not take liquids, aerosols or gels past this point without authorisation.

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**WARNING!**

International screening point in operation

Liquids, aerosols and gels other than those prescribed by, or under, the Regulations must not be taken past this point without authority.

Maximum penalty exceeds $2 000

At an international screening point, as an alternative to displaying separate screening point signs (r4.18, r4.18A and r4.22P(1)), a screening authority may display a combined sign warning about an international screening point in operation, advising that a person at the screening point is taken to have consented to undergo screening procedures, that weapons and prohibited items must not be taken past that point without authorisation, and that a person at the screening point must not take liquids, aerosols or gels past this point without authorisation.

**Commonwealth of Australia**

**WARNING!**

International screening point in operation

A person at this screening point is taken, by law, to have consented to undergo a screening procedure (except a frisk search), unless the person refuses to undergo the screening procedure. A person who refuses to undergo a screening procedure will not be allowed through the screening point.

Weapons and prohibited items must not be taken past this point without authority

Maximum penalty exceeds $10 000

Liquids, aerosols and gels other than those prescribed by, or under, the Regulations must not be taken past this point without authority

Maximum penalty exceeds $2 000

Checked baggage screening signs

Regulation
4.37—requirement to notify intending passengers about checked baggage screening

A screening authority must display a warning sign that checked baggage screening may be in operation.

Commonwealth of Australia

WARNING!

Checked baggage screening may be in operation

Chapter 4: Common requirements

The Regulations set out common requirements for airport security signs—these are:

- inclusion of the Commonwealth Coat of Arms—the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet sets the terms under which the Coat of Arms is used.

- a prescribed minimum size—signs must be at least 0.4 metres wide by 0.3 metres high. There is no maximum size for the sign. Signs should be large enough to accommodate the text required for that sign and text should be clearly visible.

- the number of signs to be used—the number of signs required will vary depending on the type and size of the area/zone and the number of access points to that zone. However, signs should be placed in such a way that anyone entering the area or zone knows they are moving into an area or zone.

- placement of signs—signs are to be placed at the barrier or boundary of the area or zone as stipulated in the regulations relating to each individual sign. Where there is a physical barrier such as a fence or a wall a sign may be fixed to that fence or wall. If the boundary of an area or zone crosses across a natural landscape (i.e. a shoreline), a sign may be placed at that location and not necessarily fixed to anything.

While there is no Australian standard in place to provide guidance to industry about matters such as materials to be used for signs and the durability of signs, all signs should cleaned, re-painted or replaced as required to maintain legibility.

1 Further information—including to obtain a publication quality image of the Coat of Arms can be found at the Commonwealth Coat of Arms and Government Branding web page.
## Chapter 5: Frequently asked questions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Who is responsible for signs where there is a shared boundary between different parts of an airport managed by different aviation industry participants (AIPs)?</td>
<td>The party that holds the transport security program (TSP) over that area/zone is responsible.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 2. If an area of the airport is leased out, who is responsible for any signs required? | There could be more than one responsible aviation industry participant (AIP) for a particular area. The question for compliance will always be—which is the most relevant AIP/s to be responsible for the obligations imposed by the legislation.  
If the tenant is required to have a TSP, then the tenant is a responsible AIP for the part of the area/zone (landside and/or airside) on which its facilities are located and are covered by its TSP.  
In all scenarios, the airport operator whose TSP covers the entire security controlled airport is also a responsible AIP.                                                                                                                                                         |
| 3. Does a sign have to be placed at the actual boundary?                | Yes. An exception to this is when a safety requirement (e.g. jetblast zone) or natural boundary (e.g. ocean break wall) does not allow for the sign to be placed at the boundary.  
If environmental/safety factors restrict the placement of a sign, the signage should be placed at the closest point within the boundary line.                                                                                                                                 |
| 4. What signs do I need to display for a common boundary?              | If a boundary of an airside area is a common boundary for the airside area and an SRA, only the requirements for signs applicable to the SRA apply (i.e. an SRA sign must be used in place of an airside sign).                                                                                                                          |
| 5. Can I place a sign on a door?                                      | Yes, unless the door is permanently open, open for an extended period, or affixed open.  
There is no issue with signs being placed on door/s which are open for short periods (such as aerobridge doors or doors at the end of hallways).                                                                                                                  |
6. Where should signs be placed on an aerobridge?  
The whole of the aerobridge is part of the airside. It is considered an elevated part of the apron and if there is an SRA, then the aerobridge is also part of the SRA.

Question 4 provides further guidance on signs required where there are common boundaries for an airside area and a SRA.

As the aerobridge is in an airside area, signs are to be placed on the door or the adjacent wall of the main aerobridge door, so that they are visible from within the terminal.

SRA (or airside) signs must also be placed at any other exits within the aerobridge (including Jacobs ladder and fire exits).

If passengers disembark via an aerobridge and enter a sterile area, then a sterile area sign must be used.

7. Where should airside signs be placed within hangars and maintenance facilities?  
Regulatory signage is to be placed at the boundary/barrier (noting the safety/environmental factors above and regulatory requirements for each sign). In the case of boundaries to airside at hangars/maintenance facilities, this needs to be in accordance with the airside/landside boundaries of the airport, as detailed in the gazetted map of the airport.

8. What material should signs be made from?  
There is no regulatory requirement for the material used to make signs. Signs should be durable and legible, and maintained/replaced as required.

9. What size should airport security signs be?  
All signs are required to be at least 0.4 metres wide and 0.3 metres high. There is no maximum size required. Signs should be large enough to accommodate the text required for that sign.

10. Do I have to replace landside security zone signs by 30 March 2017?  
No. AIPs may choose to cover over existing incorrect wording on landside security zone signs rather than replace the sign. However the sign must remain legible for displaying all other relevant warnings.

11. What size should the text on the sign be?  
Text must be large enough and presented in such a way that anyone entering the zone or area knows they are entering the zone or area and are aware of the conditions and consequences of entry.

12. What do I need to do if a regulatory sign is missing, stolen or damaged?  
AIPs are responsible for ensuring that regulatory signage remains in place and legible after installation. In the event of a stolen, missing, or damaged sign, the responsible AIP needs to immediately install a replacement sign; or install a temporary sign until a permanent replacement sign can be fitted.
Chapter 6: Further information

More information and guidance on Australia’s aviation security regime is located on the Department’s website www.infrastructure.gov.au.


For further information or assistance please contact the National Coordinator at national.coordinator@infrastructure.gov.au