Security Authority

Full body scanner

- The Canadian Air Transport Security Authority (CATSA) uses full body scanning machines in select Canadian airports.
- Passengers always have a choice between the full body scanner and a physical search.
- The scanner works by projecting low-level radio frequency (RF) energy over and around the passenger's body.
- Health Canada concludes the RF energy emitted by the scanner is safe and within Canada's guidelines.
- To protect passengers' privacy, the scanner uses a generic figure (below) that indicates areas on the passenger's body requiring additional search. Generic images are not associated with any identifiable information and are immediately and permanently deleted after the screening process is complete.



A passenger who sets off an alarm has the option of removing any objects in the area(s) of concern and being rescanned. If the alarm cannot be resolved a physical search will be conducted. Passengers may have the search performed in a private room by a same-sex screening officer.

For more information please visit catsa.gc.ca or call 1-888-294-2202



