



TSA Security Directive 1582/84-21-01 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Why is TSA issuing this directive on a public health matter?

The recent Executive Orders, the national emergency determination by the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the CDC Order recognize TSA's authority to address the COVID-19 public health threat to the transportation system. These actions collectively mandate nationwide measures to ensure the security and safety of the nation's transportation system. These federal mandates represent a "whole of government" approach to addressing security and safety concerns presented by the continued transmission of COVID-19 through the transportation system.

What is TSA's response to concerns that the new federal requirement adds confusion to what many have already successfully implemented?

TSA recognizes the significant efforts of surface transportation owner/operators to require their employees, contractors, and passengers to wear face masks. The federal mask requirement seeks to reinforce those efforts with specific guidance from the CDC and provide national consistency to face mask requirements. If a surface owner/operator or the local government has in place measures that are more protective than the measures in the SD, the owner/operator should follow those more protective measures.

To whom does this directive apply in Surface Transportation?

This directive applies to the following entities:

- Each owner/operator identified in 49 CFR 1582.1(a), which includes:
 - Each passenger railroad carrier.
 - Each public transportation agency.
 - Each operator of a rail transit system that is not operating on track that is part of the general railroad system of transportation, including heavy rail transit, light rail transit, automated guideway, cable car, inclined plane, funicular, and monorail systems.
 - Each tourist, scenic, historic, and excursion rail owner/operator, whether operating on or off the general railroad system of transportation.
- Each owner/operator identified in 49 CFR 1584.1 that provides fixed-route service as defined in 49 CFR 1500.3 which includes:
 - Each owner/operator providing transportation by an over-the-road bus (OTRB).

What is the process for requesting an Alternative Measure?

The owner/operator must immediately notify TSA via email at TSA-Surface@tsa.dhs.gov if unable to implement any of the measures in this SD. The owner/operator may submit proposed alternative measures along with supporting documentation to the email address above.



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How is TSA enforcing a mask requirement on buses, trains, and in stations?

As the federal agency responsible for securing the Nation's transportation system, TSA will be monitoring the implementation of the SD and will work with surface transportation owner/operators to ensure that all surface transportation employees and contractors wear face masks when in conveyances or in transportation hubs/facilities to prevent further spread of COVID-19. For the same reason, the SD requires passengers to wear face masks when in a conveyance or in public areas of transportation hubs/facilities controlled by the owner/operator.

What would constitute a significant security concern that must be reported?

An example of a reportable significant security concern would be if an individual's refusal to comply with the mask requirement results in situations where the individual assaults, interferes with, or threatens a transportation worker. Additionally, if the situation disrupts service or requires the intervention of a law enforcement officer, the owner/operator must report the incident to the Transportation Security Operations Center (TSOC) at 1-866-615-5150 or 1-703-563-3240 in accordance with 49 CFR 1570.203.

How were regulated parties notified of this security directive?

TSA issued this security directive to the regulated parties through email communication to security coordinators, surface transportation trade associations, and the Surface Transportation Security Advisory Committee.

How long will this directive be in effect?

The duration of this directive is 100 days from the effective date, (with an expiration date of May 11, 2021), but may be renewed.

Will the facial coverings distributed by FEMA to the transportation industry last year meet the requirements of this directive?

Yes, the masks distributed by FEMA for transportation industry workers meet the requirements of the security directive.

Will there be civil penalties for non-compliance?

TSA can issue civil penalties against a passenger for non-compliance.

Regarding the civil penalty fine structure for individuals who violate the Security Directive, TSA will recommend a fine ranging from \$250 for the first offense up to \$1,500 for repeat offenders. Based on substantial aggravating or mitigating factors, TSA may seek a sanction amount that falls outside these ranges. TSA has provided transportation system operators specific guidance on how to report violations so that TSA may issue penalties to those who refuse to wear a face mask.



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Inquiries about the TSA Security Directive can be addressed to TSA-Surface@tsa.dhs.gov

Helpful Links

[Presidential Executive Order \(1/21/2021\) on Promoting COVID-19 Safety in Domestic and International Travel](#)

[CDC Order: Requirement for Persons to Wear Masks While on Conveyances and at Transportation Hubs](#)

[TSA Security Directive 1582/84-21-01 - Surface Public Transportation Face Mask Requirements](#)

[CDC Face Mask Requirement on Public Transportation Information](#)

[TSA Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) information](#)

[USDOT FAQs - Federal Mask Requirement](#)