Millimeter Wave Advanced Imaging Technology

What Is It?
Advanced imaging technology safely screens passengers for both metallic and non-metallic threats, including weapons and explosives. It detects items which may be concealed under a passenger’s clothes, allows TSA to screen without physical contact, and works to keep the traveling public safe.

Millimeter wave imaging technology bounces harmless electromagnetic waves off of the human body to create a black and white image resembling a fuzzy photo negative.

Currently, there are 741 imaging technology units at nearly 160 airports.

How It Works
Advanced imaging technology is completely optional for all passengers. Those passengers who opt out of imaging technology screening will receive alternative screening, which includes a physical pat-down. One officer will ask a passenger to remove all objects from his/her pockets before entering the portal. This officer never sees the passenger’s image. Another security officer in a walled-off location views the black and white image generated by the technology. Once this second officer reviews the image and resolves any anomalies, the image is immediately deleted. The entire process takes seconds.

Privacy Features
TSA has implemented strict measures to protect passenger privacy, which is ensured through the anonymity of the image. The image cannot be stored, transmitted or printed, and is deleted immediately once viewed. Additionally, all millimeter wave units have Automatic Target Recognition (ATR) software, which eliminates passenger specific images.

Safety Features
Millimeter wave technology screening is safe for all passengers, and the technology meets all known national and international health and safety standards. The energy emitted by millimeter wave technology is thousands of times less than what is permitted for a cell phone.

For more information on this and other technologies, visit [www.tsa.gov](http://www.tsa.gov).