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Transportation Security Administration  
Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Division  
TSA-20, East Tower  
601 South 12th Street  
Arlington, VA 22202-4220

fax 571-227-1406  
FOIA.TSA@dhs.gov

**FOIA REQUEST**

**Fee benefit requested**

**Fee waiver requested**

**Expedited processing requested**

Dear FOIA Officer:

Pursuant to the federal Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552, I request access to and copies of the most recent version of the TSA's "Screening Management Standard Operating Procedures (SOP)", including any and all appendices, attachments, enclosures, supplements, updates, interpretive or guidance notes, usage instructions, or the like. Portions of an earlier version of this document were released by you in response to our FOIA request TSA08-0723.

As a representative of the news media I am only required to pay for the direct cost of duplication after the first 100 pages. Through this request, I am gathering information on TSA procedures at checkpoints that is of current interest to the public because without this information, there is no way for members of the public to anticipate what to expect at TSA checkpoint or to know what actions by TSA employees or contractors or members of the public the TSA believes are permitted or required. This information is being sought on behalf of The Identity Project ("IDP"). IDP provides advice, assistance, publicity, and legal defense to those who find their rights infringed or their legitimate activities curtailed by demands for

identification, and builds public awareness about the effects of ID requirements on fundamental rights. IDP is a program of the First Amendment Project, a nonprofit organization providing legal and educational resources dedicated to protecting and promoting First Amendment rights.

One of the principal activities of IDP is publication of the informational and educational Web site at <http://www.papersPlease.org>, where we have published documents obtained in response to our previous FOIA requests, including the portions of the Screening Management SOP previously released for dissemination to the general public. This information will also be publicized through my own Web site and blog of travel news, information, and advice, "The Practical Nomad", at <http://hasbrouck.org> and <http://hasbrouck.org/blog>, which has been a leading source of news concerning TSA practices, and in the sections concerning airport security in future editions of my book, "The Practical Nomad: How to Travel Around the World" (Avalon Travel, 4<sup>th</sup> edition, 2007).

Please waive any applicable fees. Release of the information is in the public interest because it will contribute significantly to public understanding of government operations and activities. There has been, and continues to be, extensive interest in what, if any, rules or procedures govern activities by the TSA, TSA contractors, third parties, and the public at TSA checkpoints.

As we have reported on our Web site at <http://www.papersplease.org/wp/2009/06/04/are-there-any-rules-at-airport-checkpoints/>, the TSA's Chief Privacy Officer has stated publicly, in response to our questions, that he does not know if there are any rules or regulations specifying what TSA employees or contractors, or travelers, are required or permitted to do at TSA checkpoints. To the best of our knowledge, and belief, there are no statutes, rules, or regulations specifying these procedures, rights, or obligations.

In the absence of statutes or regulations, public disclosure and availability of the Screening Management SOP -- as the Identity Project intends to make through publication on our Web site -- is essential to any public understanding of TSA checkpoint operations, of what rights and authority the TSA claim, and of TSA expectations with respect to the conduct of TSA employees and contractors and of members of the public.

If my request is denied in whole or part, I ask that you justify all deletions by reference to specific exemptions of the act. I will also expect you to release all segregable portions of otherwise exempt material. I, of course, reserve the right to appeal your decision to withhold any information or to deny a waiver of fees.

Please provide expedited processing of this request which concerns a matter of urgency. As a journalist and public educator, I am primarily engaged in disseminating information. The public has an urgent need for information about TSA screening procedures because on September 17, 2009, President Obama nominated Erroll G. Southers to be to be an Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security for Transportation Security and Administrator of the TSA, as

reported at <[http://www.whitehouse.gov/the\\_press\\_office/Presidential-nominations-sent-to-the-Senate-9/17/09/](http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/Presidential-nominations-sent-to-the-Senate-9/17/09/)>. Hearings on this nomination will be scheduled imminently in the Senate.

TSA screening procedures are central to the duties of Administrator of the TSA. Public knowledge of current TSA screening procedures is essential for informed consideration of this nomination and for informed public input to their Senators concerning questions about these procedures to be asked, and issues to be discussed, by the Senate in advising and considering whether to consent to this appointment. I certify that my statements concerning the need for expedited processing are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. Expedited processing of this request is essential if members of the public are to have time to review the current TSA screening procedures, formulate questions about them, and make those questions known to their Senators prior to the confirmation hearings or confirmation vote.

Please respond as soon as possible to confirm your receipt of this request. I look forward to your complete reply within 20 business days, as the statute requires.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Edward Hasbrouck

Consultant on travel-related issues  
The Identity Project