NEW BODY SCANNERS ON TRIAL AT CHANGI AIRPORT

As part of ongoing efforts to enhance passenger security, a new body scanner has been deployed at Changi Airport's Terminal 3 on a month-long trial. The Rapiscan Secure 1000 outlines passengers' body contours and detects weapons, explosives, drugs and other contraband items concealed on the body for a more thorough security screening process. During the trial period, passengers will be randomly selected to undergo screening via the body scanner machine as a secondary layer of checks.

To safeguard the privacy of passengers, scanned images of travellers who walk through the machine will be analysed by a female officer in a viewing workstation located remotely in the airport. The scanned persons will be represented by stick figures to protect their identities. Upon clearance, these images will be automatically deleted to allay further privacy concerns. These scanners have been certified by the National Environmental Agency (NEA) as non-hazardous to human health, as it emits a very low radiation level that is safe for pregnant women and passengers with special medical conditions. The new scanners also comply with standards set by the US Food & Drug Administration (FDA), the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and the United Kingdom Health Protection Agency.

The same technology is currently being deployed in several airports across the US (Boston Logan International Airport, Phoenix International Airport, Orlando International Airport and Tampa International Airport) and UK (Heathrow and Manchester International Airport). The trial is aimed to ascertain the suitability of new security technology, as well as to tailor solutions that look to both enhance passenger security and maintain efficiency to ensure that flights are not delayed because of its implementation. Following the trial, further feasibility studies will be conducted by the APD, CAAS and CAG before a decision is taken on whether to deploy such scanners at Changi Airport.