Full-body scanner

Full-body scanners use millimeter-wave technology to detect objects concealed in or under clothing. The machines project low-level radio-frequency energy over and around the passenger's body. CATSA has conducted an extensive evaluation of the full-body scanners and determined they provide a very effective additional layer of security for people travelling through Canadian airports.

During the pre-board screening process, passengers selected for secondary screening have the option of a physical search or, where available, a full-body scan. A passenger who opts for a full-body scan stands in the scanner chamber with arms raised. If the full-body scanner detects an item under clothing, the area of concern will be highlighted on a generic "stick" figure. The passenger will have the opportunity to remove any objects in the area(s) of concern and be rescanned. However, if the alarm cannot be resolved, a physical search will be conducted. The search can be conducted in private.

The scanners that CATSA uses do not pose a risk to human health or safety in either single or repeated exposures. They do not produce X-rays. Health Canada has concluded that the radio-frequency energy emitted by the full-body scanners used by CATSA is well within Canada's guidelines for safe human exposure in accordance with Health Canada regulations (Safety Code 6).