



FactSheet



Eligible Participants

TSA Inspectors are available to conduct BASE reviews with Mass Transit and Highway entities across the nation.

There are two types of BASE Assessments:

- Mass Transit BASE
- Highway BASE

Companies Included;

- Mass Transit / Intercity Bus
- Mass Transit light or heavy rail
- School Bus
- Over the Road Bus /Motorcoach
- Trucking

Team Qualifications

BASE Teams consist of TSA Inspectors who are trained to conduct activities specific to surface transportation modes.

BASELINE ASSESSMENT FOR SECURITY ENHANCEMENT (BASE)

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA), in coordination with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), the American Public Transit Association (APTA) and various Mass Transit and Highway trade associations developed the BASE program in support of TSA’s Risk Based Security (RBS) initiative. The BASE program is provided to Mass Transit and Highway stakeholders at no cost.

Scope - The BASE program is designed to establish standards for security programs, identify strengths as well as potential vulnerabilities and assess progress with TSA’s stakeholders within the mass transit, passenger rail and highway modes. The BASE is aligned with the requirements identified in the 9/11 Commission Act’s security assessment section, which directs the TSA to identify critical assets, infrastructure and systems and their vulnerabilities and assist public transportation authorities to address their security programs.

Goal - The BASE program is intended to elevate the security posture and readiness throughout the mass transit and highway surface transportation modes by implementing and sustaining baseline security measures applicable to the operating environment and system characteristics.

Documents- Prior to the assessment, TSA Inspectors will request documents such as security plans, safety plans, emergency response plans, driver manuals, IT plans etc. While not required, these documents will assist the Inspectors in completing a comprehensive evaluation of program elements, which include but are not limited to the transit agency’s security plans, security awareness and emergency response training, drills/exercise programs, public outreach efforts, and background check programs.

Process- A BASE is typically conducted by a team of two inspectors who will sit down with the company's personnel to review a series of questions related to security. The questions for the BASE are broken down into categories called Security Action Items (SAIs) and cover a variety of topics ranging from security and emergency response plans, facility and vehicle security, security and emergency training, to maintaining a public security and emergency awareness program. The assessment team will request various department heads to be available during the interview process in order to answer questions pertinent to the BASE.

Completion- Inspectors use the results of the in-person interview, onsite observation, as well as review of all available documents provided, to develop an Executive Summary report. The Executive Summary outlines strengths that your company has, as well as provides options for considerations for future security improvements.

Planning - If your agency would like to participate in a BASE, you are encouraged to contact your local TSA Surface office. If you require this contact information, please contact the TSA HQ Surface Program at STSIP@DHS.GOV for further information.