Transportation Security Administration's (TSA) response to OMB's Terms of Clearance

OMB CONTROL NUMBER 1652-0002 AIRPORT SECURITY PART 1542

Terms of Clearance

- OMB commends TSA's continued efforts in eliminating the known duplication with CBP and encourages the agency to continue looking into ways to completely eliminate the duplication wherever possible.
- Prior to resubmission, the agency will update OMB on its progress in this effort.

▶ The U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) requires Criminal History Records Checks (CHRCs) be conducted on individuals with unescorted access to CBP's designated airport Federal Inspection Station (FIS) areas. Some individuals working at the airport may need access to the airport secured areas regulated by TSA and the FIS area controlled by CBP. Because a CHRC is required by both agencies for the same applicant, CBP and TSA created "eBadge," an automated interface that eliminates duplicative enrollments and CHRCs for individuals who need CHRCs for airport secured areas and the FIS.

▶ eBadge is a program that streamlines the application process for aviation workers requiring access to the CBP FIS areas at airports. eBadge went live April 2, 2020, and is a joint effort between TSA and CBP. Traditionally, workers needed to apply for a Secure Identification Display Area (SIDA) badge through their Airport Badging Office (ABO), and then visit the airport's local CBP office to apply for a CBP seal using a CBP form. Upon successful vetting by CBP, CBP would affix a holographic sticker to the applicant's SIDA badge.

Now, aviation workers can apply for both access privileges simultaneously using a single application. The information collected at the time of the SIDA application populates in the Trusted Worker Program database. CBP then uses the electronic information (biographic and biometric data) from that database to conduct their own vetting. CBP then sends a message to the ABO authorizing the customs seal to be placed on the employee's badge thereby streamlining the vetting and issuance processes. By reducing administrative burden, and eliminating duplicative enrollment submissions, workers are able to obtain an FIS seal on their SIDA badges faster and with less effort. As of 10/22/2024 there have been 403,324 eBadge transactions from 41 participating airports.

▶ TSA's implementation of eBadge has eliminated duplication as much as possible. However, two distinct CHRCs are still performed because TSA and CBP have different disqualifying crimes and the CHRCs serve very different purposes. Still, the solution to address most of the overlap is in place thanks to eBadge.