



How Screening Technology Can Help Sports Venues Mitigate Security Risks

WHITE PAPER / STADIUM & ARENA SECURITY

Around the world, sports and entertainment venues have the capacity to fit over 100,000 people. With attendance exceeding the population of many U.S. cities, facilities face the same challenges that threaten any metropolitan area. To help mitigate risks, stadiums and arenas can adopt advanced screening technology for the safety and security of spectators, staff, and players.

THE CHALLENGE

On game day and during special events, stadiums and arenas transform into miniaturized cities, packed with thousands of spectators, players/performers, staff, and media, all demanding the very best experience.

Management is tasked with monitoring the movement of people, backpacks, purses, and deliveries in and out of their venue, executing a security plan that will safeguard everyone who occupies the facility. It's a monumental task. A bag policy can only go so far as dangerous items can be concealed in innocuous objects and there are always exceptions that need to be made.

The following paper looks over four potential risk scenarios your facility may encounter when managing people and goods entering the premises and innovative ways security screening technology can keep your facility safe.

RISK SCENARIO #1

A fan arrives at a professional football stadium on game day with an oxygen tank he claims to need during the game. As part of a newly-introduced stadium security protocol, one security guard takes his oxygen tank to the X-ray inspection system to be screened, while another guard directs the man to walk through a metal detector. When the oxygen tank is put through the X-ray inspection system, the operator notices that this isn't any ordinary oxygen tank, it's a decoy. The bottom of the fake oxygen tank unscrews to conceal a homemade explosive device.

HOW TO KEEP YOUR STADIUM SAFE

To address the increasing risk of terrorist activity in public spaces, this stadium adopted the proven security measure of scanning personal items coming into the stadium with X-ray technology to reduce the likelihood of threat materials endangering the facility.

The stadium is using a Smiths Detection HI-SCAN 5030C X-ray inspection system, which yields superior image resolution with fast and easy operation when screening various items, including purses, handbags, and backpacks. The scanner is compact and capable of showing a single top to bottom view of an item.

RISK SCENARIO #2

Facilities rely on the revenue generated by alcohol and concession sales in the limited time that their event takes place to make their operations profitable. One inventive fan hatched a plan to smuggle alcohol into the stadium to consume while watching a football game. By inconspicuously placing 20 plastic airplane liquor bottles in the liner of his winter coat, the fan figured there would be no way a walk-through metal detector or a pat-down by a security guard would uncover the hidden alcohol, which would be worth \$300 if it were to be purchased inside the stadium. What the fan didn't realize was there would be another security obstacle standing in his way, which is a newly installed X-ray inspection system.

HOW TO PROTECT YOUR REVENUE

This stadium opted to install Smiths Detection HI-SCAN 6040-2is X-ray inspection systems to screen personal belongings entering the stadium. As part of their security screening procedures, heavyweight jackets thicker than two inches need to be removed and scanned by the X-ray inspection system. Unlike metal detectors, X-ray inspection systems can help security personnel detect non-metallic contraband items, such as the miniature plastic liquor bottles. The HI-SCAN 6040-2is possesses two generators, which allow the system to capture two different angles of the contents being screened, which is particularly useful in detecting containers of alcohol, in addition to thin items, such as razors and blades. What could be nearly impossible to detect when viewed vertically, can easily be detected when seen horizontally, or vice versa. Dual-view technology eliminates the need for security personnel to reposition and re-scan an item in order to get an alternate view of the object, greatly reducing throughput time. In this scenario, the X-ray inspection system helped the stadium prevent a loss of \$300 in revenue. If multiplied by just a small percentage of fans throughout the year, it's easy to see how an X-ray inspection system can improve a facility's bottom line on an annual basis.



HI-SCAN 5030C

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HI-SCAN 6040-2is

RISK SCENARIO #3

Stadiums and arenas receive thousands of vendors and contractors who bring equipment and deliveries into the facility in the days and hours leading up to an event. In this scenario, an audio-visual technician, who is contracted by a professional hockey team, has formulated a plan to bring firearms into the arena. The technician knows that during previous seasons, he was able to roll his large cases containing microphone stands and camera equipment from his van into the arena the day before the big game without being checked. Recognizing this gap in security, he thought to hide high powered assault rifles in his audio-visual cases and retrieve them during the game. However, what the technician didn't know was that the arena had a new security plan for the upcoming season that involved screening all equipment and deliveries being loaded into the arena.

HOW TO SAFEGUARD DELIVERIES

The arena has two loading docks and three bay doors that are used to receive equipment and deliveries. On days when the arena isn't preparing for a game or a special event, the loading docks are utilized for receiving freight. The arena opted to install HI-SCAN 100100V-2is X-ray inspection systems on each of its loading docks. These systems are capable of screening palletized freight and large packages. The systems also possess dual-view technology, which eliminates the need for security staff to open the palletized goods and reposition them. This makes their reception of deliveries very efficient when trying to process multiple shipments.

On the days leading up to a game or special event, the arena experiences a large number of deliveries and contractors who all want to load equipment into the stadium at the same time. To organize and control this process, the arena utilizes a section of the parking lot as a marshalling yard. The security team procured a ScanVan 100100 PRO to screen break bulk items and equipment in the marshalling yard before it is transported by forklift or hand carried into the arena. ScanVan 100100 PRO is an X-ray inspection system mounted inside a RAM ProMaster cargo van. The security team can simply drive the X-ray inspection system to where they need it. Retractable awnings protect the system and security team from the sun and its on-board generator provides power for the X-ray inspection system as well as communication equipment they operate. The security team also makes use of the storage space within the ScanVan 100100 PRO to store security equipment, such as traffic cones and lights.



HI-SCAN 100100V-2is

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ScanVan 100100 PRO

RISK SCENARIO #4

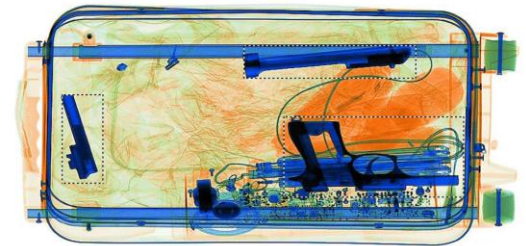
The security staff at a professional baseball stadium is staffed by part-time security officers when the stadium is used for baseball games. When the team isn't playing, the stadium leases its facility to event producers for concerts and other live performances. The event producer contracts with a security guard firm to supply staff for their events. Unlike airport security officers, who operate X-ray inspection systems on a daily basis, the security officers who are tasked with operating the X-ray inspection system at this stadium could have little or no experience in examining X-ray images. The stadium manager opts to address the challenge by utilizing a software solution that automatically detects weapons, which takes the guess work out of security screening.

HOW TO AUTOMATICALLY DETECT WEAPONS

iCMORE is an add-on software application that is compatible with select X-ray inspection systems manufactured by Smiths Detection. Loaded onto a special stand-alone computer, the iCMORE software communicates with the X-ray inspection system while an object is being screened. Utilizing a proprietary set of algorithms iCMORE automatically detects a wide range of weapons including handguns, gun parts, ammunition, and knives with a blade greater than 2.4in. iCMORE possesses next generation deep learning artificial intelligence, which teaches the system to recognize the shape and design of new weapons. iCMORE requires little or no training, greatly reduces the risk of human error and overcomes the challenge of employing inexperienced security personnel. Security guards can receive a quick tutorial on how an X-ray inspection system operates and how iCMORE automatically spots weapons minutes before they are expected to start screening at a checkpoint.

CONCLUSION

Threats are always evolving, becoming more clever and sophisticated each day, so security teams need to stay one step ahead. With the right technology and intelligent software, stadiums and arenas are able to reduce their facility's liability and revenue loss while safeguarding their staff, visitors, and all other stakeholders.



iCMORE Weapons

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