Aviation security: aims and objectives
010 Air Law and ATC Procedures › 11 Security

QUESTION

What is the aim of the EU aviation security regulation?

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ANSWER

To set common EU rules that protect civil aviation against acts of unlawful interference.

Reg. (EC) No 300/2008 Art. 1(1) first subparagraph

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QUESTION

What is aviation security?

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ANSWER

The combination of measures, plus human and material resources, that protects civil aviation against acts of unlawful interference.

Reg. (EC) No 300/2008 Art. 3(2)

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QUESTION

Does security or safety deal with deliberate acts?

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ANSWER

Security does. Safety deals with unintended hazards such as errors, technical failures and weather.

Own synthesis from Reg. (EC) No 300/2008 Art. 3(2) and Annex II point 1.1(15)-(16)

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QUESTION

A person tampers with an aircraft on purpose. Is this a safety or a security matter?

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ANSWER

Security. The difference is intent, not outcome.

Own synthesis from Reg. (EC) No 300/2008 Art. 3(2) and Annex II point 1.1(15)-(16)

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QUESTION

What is the role of ICAO Annex 17 in the EU?

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ANSWER

It is the international baseline. The EU regulation is the rule in force and gives a common interpretation of it.

Reg. (EC) No 300/2008 Art. 1(1) second subparagraph

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QUESTION

What are the two means the regulation uses to reach its aim?

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ANSWER

Common rules and common basic standards on aviation security, and mechanisms that check compliance.

Reg. (EC) No 300/2008 Art. 1(2); Reg. (EC) No 300/2008 Art. 1(2)(a)-(b)

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QUESTION

Which airport area is not airside?

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ANSWER

Landside: the parts of an airport, adjacent terrain and buildings that are not airside.

Reg. (EC) No 300/2008 Art. 3(12)

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QUESTION

What is airside?

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ANSWER

The movement area, adjacent terrain and buildings of an airport, where access is restricted.

Reg. (EC) No 300/2008 Art. 3(11)

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QUESTION

What is a security restricted area (SRA)?

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ANSWER

The part of airside where access is restricted and further security standards also apply.

Reg. (EC) No 300/2008 Art. 3(13)

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QUESTION

Is all airside an SRA?

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ANSWER

No. Every SRA is airside, but not all airside is an SRA.

Reg. (EC) No 300/2008 Art. 3(13)

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QUESTION

What is a demarcated area?

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ANSWER

An area separated by access control from the SRAs, or from the other SRAs when it is itself an SRA.

Reg. (EC) No 300/2008 Art. 3(14)

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QUESTION

How many kinds of area must every airport in scope establish?

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ANSWER

Four: landside, airside, security restricted areas and critical parts of security restricted areas.

Reg. (EC) No 300/2008 Annex I point 1.1.2; Reg. (EC) No 300/2008 Annex I points 1.1.1, 1.1.2

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QUESTION

Are flight crew members exempt from the background check?

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ANSWER

No. A person must complete a background check before any card that allows unescorted access to an SRA.

Reg. (EC) No 300/2008 Annex I point 1.2.4

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QUESTION

Can a Member State use alternative measures instead of the common basic standards?

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ANSWER

Yes. The measures must still give adequate protection, rest on a local risk assessment and be justified by the aircraft size or the nature, scale or frequency of operations.

Reg. (EC) No 300/2008 Art. 4(4)

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QUESTION

Can a Member State apply stricter measures than the common basic standards?

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ANSWER

Yes. The measures must rest on a risk assessment, comply with EU law and stay proportional to the risk.

Reg. (EC) No 300/2008 Art. 6(1)-(3)

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QUESTION

Which airports does the EU security regulation cover?

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ANSWER

All airports, or parts of airports, that are not used exclusively for military purposes.

Reg. (EC) No 300/2008 Art. 2(1)(a)-(c)

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QUESTION

Does the regulation cover only airlines and large airports?

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ANSWER

No. It also covers operators, including air carriers, and entities that supply goods or services at those airports.

Reg. (EC) No 300/2008 Art. 2(1)(a)-(c)

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QUESTION

From which date do the security incident reporting duties apply?

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ANSWER

From 1 January 2028.

Reg. (EC) No 300/2008 Annex II points 19.2-19.4; Reg. (EC) No 300/2008 Annex II points 19.3(a)-(c), 19.4 (inserted by Reg. (EU) 2026/247)

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QUESTION

What is the report deadline for a security incident with a serious and immediate impact?

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ANSWER

Within 24 hours at the latest, and as soon as possible.

Reg. (EC) No 300/2008 Annex II point 19.3(a); Reg. (EC) No 300/2008 Annex II points 19.3(a)-(c), 19.4 (inserted by Reg. (EU) 2026/247)

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QUESTION

What is the report deadline for a security incident with a serious impact?

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ANSWER

Within 72 hours.

Reg. (EC) No 300/2008 Annex II point 19.3(b); Reg. (EC) No 300/2008 Annex II points 19.3(a)-(c), 19.4 (inserted by Reg. (EU) 2026/247)

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QUESTION

What is the report deadline for all other security incidents?

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ANSWER

Monthly.

Reg. (EC) No 300/2008 Annex II point 19.3(c); Reg. (EC) No 300/2008 Annex II points 19.3(a)-(c), 19.4 (inserted by Reg. (EU) 2026/247)

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QUESTION

Who carries the security incident reporting duties?

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ANSWER

Operators and entities responsible for the national programme.

The regulation does not name a private pilot as an individual (our reading of the text).

Reg. (EC) No 300/2008 Annex II points 19.3(a)-(c), 19.4 (inserted by Reg. (EU) 2026/247)

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