

Notice: Office of SAFETY Act Implementation Operating Status

The information below is current as of July 16, 2020 and is subject to change. Continue monitoring the SAFETY Act website for future updates. Please note that this announcement contains several items.

Application Submission Guidelines During COVID-19:

Due to the ongoing pandemic, the Office of SAFETY Act Implementation will implement new procedures for processing some classes of applications. Prior to filing your application, please review the information below to determine if your submission will be affected.

- **Pre-Applications:** OSAI will continue to accept new pre-applications for all types of technologies. However, the Science and Technology Directorate has placed a hold on all travel through at least December 31, 2020 (subject to change), as a result OSAI will be unable to participate in site visits or in-person meetings. If your Technology requires a site visit prior to submission, OSAI will be unable to accept a full application submission until travel resumes. Additional details below.
- **Full Applications:** At this time and until further notice, OSAI cannot process new applications requiring site visits, including integrated security operations at critical infrastructure facilities or commercial offices facilities until such time as Department of Homeland Security travel restrictions are lifted. Information gathered during site visits provides necessary primary information for the Under Secretary of the Science and Technology Directorate or their designee to consider when making their determinations to provide SAFETY Act protections. Further, first hand observations of security operations are necessary to fully evaluate the effectiveness (defined in PL 107-296, Sec 862(b)(2)) of integrated security technologies. These visits provide evaluators with necessary insights into the cooperation, management, and execution of the Technology and as a result are necessary components to support an application for Designation per Section 25.6 of the Final Rule.

In the interim, OSAI will be considering temporary measures to provide coverage for Technologies that would otherwise require a site visit to complete.

1. Planning activities only, such as risk management, vulnerability assessments, training program development, and other procedurally oriented activities will continue to be considered for coverage. It may be possible to conduct a modification to include operational security at a later date.
2. OSAI may offer coverage via a Developmental Testing and Evaluation Designation that will include a condition requiring a site visit prior to its expiration and submission of a full application.

- **Renewals:** Due to the ongoing pandemic, OSAI recognizes that some applicants seeking renewal may face difficulties accessing information for their submissions. For those Applicants that have coverage expiring within the next 6 months and whose renewal preparation is being negatively affected by quarantine orders, OSAI strongly urges you to contact our office at your earliest convenience to discuss your situation. If your renewal will include a substantial update to the Exhibit A, such as the addition of a new capability or services, OSAI recommends filling a pre-application discussing the proposed changes.