Aviation Security at Frankfurt Airport

In Germany, aviation security is the responsibility of the state. The relevant legal framework is based on rules and regulations established by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the European Union (EU) as well as the German Aviation Security Act (hereinafter: LuftSiG). The LuftSiG establishes, among other things, the criteria for the access to airports’ security-restricted areas and their protection against unauthorized access. The EU and the relevant German public authorities issue guidelines for the control techniques and procedures to be employed. Furthermore, they are responsible for the quality assurance of all security measures. To that end, audits and inspections are carried out, as well as announced, unannounced, and discreet checks. The highest aviation security authority in Germany is the Federal Ministry of the Interior (BMI). In addition, the Federal Police (BPol), the Hessian Ministry of Economy, Transport, Urban and Regional Development (HMWEVL) and the Federal Aviation Office (LBA) have direct supervisory roles. Some of the control and security measures are handled by private companies, operating in accordance with and under the control of the responsible supervisory authority. Only trained staff that are approved by the authorities are allowed to perform these duties.

Who is responsible?

BMI
BPol
Private service providers (presently: I-Sec/FraSec/Fraport)

BMI
HMWEVL
Fraport
Private service providers (FraSec)

BMI/BMVI
LBA
Airlines
Private service providers

Who implements the measures?

The airport operator is responsible for controlling access to the airport’s security-restricted area by employees, vehicles and any goods carried by them. For this purpose, Fraport AG issues Airport ID Cards. Employees may only access this area on the basis of operational need and after having completed a background check by the police. In addition, the airport operator is responsible for surveillance of the area to prevent any unauthorized entry. All security measures taken are described in an Aviation Security Plan and submitted for approval to the HMWEVL as the responsible supervisory authority.

The German Federal Police is responsible for controlling access to the security-restricted area by all air passengers and their luggage. Private companies – selected by the Federal Police on the basis of tendering procedures – provide staff who conduct security screening of passengers and their hand luggage at checkpoints. The Federal Ministry of the Interior and the Federal Police determine the training content for the security staff, while the Federal Police carries out the final examinations before these staff are deployed.