

# Temperature measurement devices: **Safety**

To limit the spread of COVID 19, CATSA is required by the *Aeronautics Act* to verify that the temperature of passengers and non-passengers is below a specified reading before allowing access to the screening checkpoint. This is part of the Government of Canada's multi-layered framework of measures to protect Canadians, and help prevent air travel from being a source for the spread of the virus.

**Temperature measurement devices used by CATSA do not emit harmful radiation**

Temperature screening will be implemented in phases, starting July 30 at Canada's four busiest airports (Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto-Pearson and Montreal-Trudeau). On or before September 30, 2020, temperature screening operations will commence at the next 11 busiest airports (St. John's, Halifax, Québec City, Ottawa, Toronto-Billy Bishop, Winnipeg, Regina, Saskatoon, Edmonton, Kelowna and Victoria).

The cameras and the hand-held thermometers used for temperature screening present no health risks to users. They are "passive" devices, meaning they operate by reading heat being emitted by individuals. They do not emit any harmful radiation in order to measure temperature.

The temperature-scanning camera used by CATSA is a long-wave infrared (LWIR) camera. LWIR cameras are used regularly in airports and train terminals, at concerts, by home inspectors, fire fighters and others in the course of their duties. These cameras operate by receiving and reading the invisible, infrared light (i.e. heat) emitted from a person, the same way a photographic camera reads visible light. LWIR cameras emit nothing more than a computer does, and the devices have been tested and meet Health Canada's standards.

The hand-held thermometers used by CATSA also operate by reading infrared light at a distance, and they are the same type or similar to the ones used frequently in medical and other contexts as well.

Both technologies meet the equipment standards set by Transport Canada for temperature screening.