

Our company, prior to 9/11/01, had frequent business in the Washington DC area. Due to the ease of access from the College Park Airport, we always flew our corporate aircraft directly to CGS from Providence, then travelled into downtown via the Metro Green Line, an easy walk from the airport. Since the tragedy, we have been unable to easily travel into Washington and have since cancelled all our work in that area. We have lost tens of thousands of dollars in revenue as a result and have been looking forward to returning to our work in Washington. Commercial airlines do not provide the service necessary for us to make the quick trips there and back that we need to perform. This new regulation requires us to submit to background checks; this is fine. It also requires us to get fingerprinted and to receive a briefing. The regulation does not specify where these actions may be accomplished. For this to be viable, such activities need to be accessible outside the Washington area. We would need a location in the Providence area to obtain the fingerprinting and the briefing (if the latter is not by telephone). Without this access, the issue is moot since we cannot easily get to Washington to accomplish the required security procedures. All of that aside, this entire issue is rather absurd, since any aircraft small enough to get into CGS is too small to cause any damage to any public building. Unless there are plans to also ban tractor-trailers, large trucks, and other sizable vehicles from the DC area, this particular security maneuver accomplishes nothing other than costing us additional fiscal difficulties. It is, of course, better than not permitting us into the area at all. But it is a far cry from a return to normal.