



MASTER GLOSSARY - 2026

TAPA Global Standard



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Term	Acronym (if applicable)	Definition
Adequately		In a satisfactory manner, so no or very minimal gaps exist in local procedures.
Alarm Monitoring Center	AMC	A facility that receives signals from electronic security systems and has personnel in attendance at all times to respond to these signals. Commercial monitoring centers are owned and operated by third parties. Proprietary monitoring centers are owned and/or operated by LSP/Applicant or Buyer.
Applicant		Entity seeking TAPA certification. While applicants are typically Logistics Service Providers (LSP), they can also be Buyers seeking certification for their own warehouses or trucking fleets.
Authorized Auditor	AA	An Auditor working for an IAB who has passed TAPA-administered training and is authorized to conduct audits and issue certifications with TAPA Standards at all levels (FSR A, B, C and TSR 1, 2, 3) OR An Auditor working for an LSP/Applicant or Buyer who has passed TAPA-administered training
Automatic Access Control System	AACS	A controlled area entry system that permits entry of authorized persons. It must also detect and prevent unauthorized persons entry.
Backed Up		To have made a copy of a data file or document which is stored securely in a separate location accessible to security staff for investigative purposes.
Bill of Lading		A document issued by a carrier/agent/LSP to acknowledge receipt of cargo for shipment.
Buyer		Purchaser of services and/or owner of transported and/or stored goods.
Buyer Exemption		Where “unless on Buyer exemption” is specified within a requirement, this can be a justifiable reason to record an N/A result or used to support a waiver request. The LSP/Applicant must have evidence supporting Buyer exemption finding such as documented approval from all Buyers. This evidence must be referenced in the audit and shared with the AA to allow them to validate the N/A result or in support of a waiver request.
Cargo		Goods or merchandise that are in transit, typically by ship, aircraft, truck, or train or handled/stored at a warehouse.
Closed-Circuit Television	CCTV	An internal or external color or “day/night” camera video surveillance system. Signals are transmitted to monitors, recording and control equipment.
CMR		Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road) is a United Nations convention that was signed in Geneva on 19 May 1956. It relates to requirements concerning the transportation of cargo by road.
Code Division Multiple Access	CDMA	A communications standard developed for digital cellular networks. A competing service technology to GSM.

Term	Acronym (if applicable)	Definition
Covert Location		A covert location is a position or type of installation that does not permit direct access or the immediate visibility of an installation; and if only with the appropriate background knowledge or additional hand tools.
Curtain-Sided Trailers		These include trailers whose sides are constructed of fabric, either reinforced (anti-slash) or not, which are intended to be rolled up for loading/unloading operations.
Cyber Security Standards	CSS	TAPA Standard that describes the security requirements for cyber security.
Days		Unless otherwise defined in the requirement(s), "days" is defined as "calendar days" and include weekends and holidays.
Documented Procedure		A written description of a prescribed action or process. A single documented procedure may address multiple actions or processes. Conversely, actions or processes may be documented across one or more procedures.
Facial Features Discern		A recognition and differentiation of facial features, such as skin and hair color, structure and individual peculiarities, which would possibly support the identification of an employee or a well-known person.
Facility Security Requirements	FSR	TAPA Standard that describes the security requirements for warehouse operations.
Finding(s)		Observation(s) of non-compliance with a TAPA Standard requirement. Note: All findings will be documented in a SCAR.
Freight		Goods, cargo, or merchandise being transported or stored.
FSR CFD		TAPA Facility Security Requirements Certification Framework Document
Full Container Load	FCL	Indicates that the cargo is dedicated for one Buyer.
Full Truckload	FTL	Indicates that the cargo is dedicated for one Buyer.
General Packet Radio Services	GPRS	A technology for radio transmission of small packets of data between mobile/cellular phones and the Internet.
Global System for Mobile Communications	GSM	A communications standard developed for digital cellular networks. A competing service technology to CDMA.
Goods		Tangible products that are bought, sold, or traded. They can be raw materials, components, or finished products intended for consumption or further processing.
GSR		Guarding Security Requirements APAC
Hard-Sided Trailers		Includes trailers whose sides, floor, and top are constructed of metal or other solid material.
Hard Sided Truck		The truck, also known as a tractor or a semi-trailer truck, consist of a driver's compartment at the front and designed a large open cargo area at the back, designed to pull a separate trailer behind it. The trailer should have a fixed and solid structure, typically made of metal without any moving parts or flexible panels and allows a box-shaped container to be secured to the truck's chassis.
High Decibel Alarm		Please see below link for information on alarm volume: https://audiology-web.s3.amazonaws.com/migrated/NoiseChart_Poster-%208.5x11.pdf_5399b289427535.3273...

Term	Acronym (if applicable)	Definition
High Value Cage	HVC	A secured storage area within a facility, used to hold high value cargo, that is caged or hard-walled on all sides including the top/roof, fitted with a locking device on the door/gate, covered by CCTV/VSS, alarmed to detect forced entry, and subject to controlled and documented access. Where no Buyer/LSP/Applicant agreement specifies otherwise, the HVC must be able to store a minimum of 6 cubic meters of product.
High Value Theft-Targeted	HVTT	Cargo / Products which is of high value and attractive to the criminals, that can be easily handled, and can be offered/sold in the illegal/black market
Identifiable		To be able to identify or establish as being a particular person or object.
Independent Audit Body	IAB	An audit company approved by TAPA and contracted by the LSP/Applicant or Buyer seeking TAPA Certification.
Intrusion Detection		A system (i.e., devices and software) that records information related to observed events, notifies security monitoring stations, and produces reports. Example technologies include motion, sound, sonar, microwave, and infrared.
Jamming		Devices that are radio-frequency transmitters that intentionally block, jam, or interfere with lawful communications such as cell phone calls, text messages, GPS systems, and WIFI networks.
Key Controls		Restricts access to keys by using a key register and key plan that is fully documented and part of the training program.
Less Than Load	LTL	Usually refers to a consolidated load that may be in a truck or container and may contain cargo for multiple Buyers.
Logistics Service Provider	LSP	A forwarder, a carrier, a trucking company, a warehouse operator, or any other company that provides direct services handling freight within the supply chain.
Memorandum of Understanding	MOU	A written agreement between the Independent Audit Bodies and TAPA that specifies the procedures the audit body shall follow to support the certification. A MOU expires 3 years from its inception.
Mobile/Cellular	3G/4G/5G	The current mainstream technology available for use in the cellular network. The higher the number the more recently available. Associated technologies may include GSM, UMTS, LTE, LTE Advanced Pro etc.)

Term	Acronym (if applicable)	Definition
Not Applicable	N/A	A condition that in certain circumstances can be accepted by the Authorized Auditor when conducting TAPA certification audits. N/A can only be considered when the TAPA requirement response of “Yes or No” is truly not appropriate and/or the requirement is not capable of being applied. N/A cannot be used to avoid compliance due to cost or operational concerns. N/A(s) entered into the certification audit template, must contain, or refer to, documented supporting details that describe and justify the N/A decision. Examples of where N/A could be utilized: - • Protection of doors, windows, or other openings, that do not exist. • Securing of roof ladders that are not required to be installed at that facility (i.e. no external ladders present at the facility). • Warehouse is a true 24/7/366 operation such that intrusion detection in the interior spaces is not applicable. • Requiring subcontractors to comply with TAPA Standards, when the LSP/Applicant does not use subcontractors. <i>Note: Use of N/A is not the same as a waiver. Waivers are considered when an applicable requirement cannot be complied with and risks are adequately mitigated with alternative technical or process controls.</i>
Physical Barrier		Any physical element that deters penetration. May include items such as fences, walls, floors, roofs, grills, bars, padlocks, chains, gates, or other structures.
Real Time		Direct, without any delay.
Recognizable		To be able to recognize a person, place, or thing from knowledge of appearance or characteristics.
Reporting Rate		Identifies how often the tracking unit sends a signal/location update to the tracking system.
Rigid Vans/ Fixed Body Trucks		A Rigid Van or Fixed Body Truck is fully enclosed with fixed panels, made of metal or fibreglass, with solid walls, roof and floor encasing the cargo area. The rear of the truck is typically equipped with a roll-up door or double doors for loading and unloading. It also consists of rears door, and for some, side doors, for loading and unloading.
Sea Container / Container Chassis		Container chassis is a type of semi-trailer designed for drayage to securely carry an intermodal container on the roads, such as between ports, railyards, container depots, and shipper facilities. The chassis should have a kingpin so they can be connected to a semi-tractor and a pair of legs called landing gear that can be cranked down to park them when not hooked up to a tractor.
Security Corrective Action Requirement	SCAR	The documented observation of non-compliance with a TAPA Standard requirement.
Security mesh		A welded sheet of strong steel wire or bars held in place by secure fixings or welded to the vehicle. No access through the mesh should be possible for people or goods.
Self-Assessment		A process in TAPA Standards where the LSP/Applicant must confirm the consistent application of all applicable requirements.

Term	Acronym (if applicable)	Definition
Self-Audit		Compliance verification conducted by the TAPA-certified entity (warehouse or trucking company) using the applicable TAPA Audit form, as per the schedule specified in the FSR or TSR standard.
Self-Certification		A process by which an entity evaluates their own company's processes, procedures and equipment to the TAPA FSR Level C standards (single-site) or TSR Level 3 standards, with a certificate issued by TAPA, confirming compliance.
SLA		A service-level agreement is a documented commitment between a service provider and their client. An SLA normally lists the services that should be provided.
Soft Sided Truck		A soft-sided truck, also known as tarpaulin truck or canvas-sided truck is typically enclosed with a tarpaulin or canvas covering that can be rolled up or removed for loading and unloading purposes. The tarpaulin or canvas material is usually supported by a framework made of metal or other sturdy materials to maintain the structural integrity of the truck.
SOP		A standard operating procedure is a set of step-by-step instructions compiled by an organization to help the organization follow routine operations.
SSMS		Single Security Management System. LSP/Applicant internal requirements that specifies the management system for achieving and maintaining the FSR requirements.
TAPA FSR Audit Forms		Standard audit templates for the measurement of conformance to FSR.
TAPA FSR Certified Company		An LSP/Applicant that has been found by an AA to have met the applicable FSR requirements.
TAPA Security Standards		Global logistics standards developed by TAPA to secure cargo during storage (FSR) and transport by road (TSR).
TAPA TSR Audit Forms		Standard audit templates for the measurement of conformance to TSR.
TAPA TSR Certified Company		An LSP/Applicant that has been found by an AA to have met the applicable Policy and Procedure requirements and has been found to have met the applicable Practice requirements via their own fleet or via contracted carriers with their own validated TSR certification.
Temporary		Non-permanent and/or short term.
Temporary Agency Staff	TAS	Temporary workforce

Term	Acronym (if applicable)	Definition
TIR cable - Transport International de Marchandises par la Route	TIR Cable	According to the Customs Code (https://taxation-customs.ec.europa.eu/union-customs-code-ucc-introduction_en) and the corresponding regulations, there are specific requirements for which cables/cords may be used for the official sealing of transport equipment and packages. These cords are divided into classes, depending on their strength, structure, and resistance to tampering. Class 1 represents the highest category, i.e. a customs-approved sealing cable that meets the requirements for tensile strength, tamper resistance, and material quality. Additional reference: https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2025-01/TIR-6Rev12e_0.pdf
Tracking Number		Can be used as an internal tracking number if needed, Where applicable.
Tractor		Front section of a truck that contains the driver and engine and which is designed to pull a trailer.
Trailer		A type of cargo container which is designed to be pulled by a tractor.
Truck		A tractor/trailer rig, a tractor/container/chassis rig, a straight truck/rigid vehicle, or a delivery van where the driver and cargo compartments are separated by a permanent bulkhead. Where necessary, "truck" is differentiated from a trailer or container.
Trucking Security Requirements	TSR	TAPA Standard describing the security requirements for surface transportation by truck and trailer/container.
TSR CFD		TAPA Trucking Security Requirements Certification Framework Document
TSR Vehicle Register		A document listing the vehicles (with identifying details) which are subject to the TAPA TSR certification.
VSS		Video Surveillance System
Waiver		Written approval to exempt an LSP/Applicant from a TAPA requirement or accept an alternative compliance solution. Note: The TAPA Regional Waiver Committee reviews waiver requests, then grants or denies all waivers.
Workforce		All employees, temporary agency staff, and subcontractors, unless individually identified.

Publishing and Copyright Information

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Status of this Document

This document provides the common terminology and definitions applicable to **TAPA Security Standards** and related certification documents.

The document serves as the authoritative reference for the interpretation of terms used throughout TAPA publications unless otherwise specified within an individual Standard or supporting document.

This document remains valid until it is replaced, revised, or withdrawn by TAPA.

TAPA may issue future revisions, updates, or amendments to reflect evolving security threats, industry practices, technological developments, or changes to TAPA Standards and related publications.

Use of this Document

This Glossary shall be used in conjunction with the applicable TAPA Security Standard and associated certification documents.

Its purpose is to promote a consistent understanding and interpretation of terminology across TAPA Standards, certification processes, guidance documents, and supporting publications.

Organizations implementing TAPA Standards remain responsible for ensuring compliance with all applicable legal, regulatory, and operational requirements in addition to the requirements specified in the relevant TAPA Standard.