

California AB 2975

Hospital Weapons Detection Compliance

California hospitals must implement staffed weapons detection systems and clear communication protocols at key entry point by **March 1, 2027** under **AB 2975**.

Key Compliance Requirements

- 1. Weapons Detection Systems:** AB 2975 mandates that hospitals install weapons detection systems at the main public entrance, the emergency department entrance, and any separate entrance to labor and delivery units. This initiative responds to the high rate of workplace violence in healthcare, which is five times higher than in other industries.
- 2. Signage and Communication:** In addition, hospitals are required to post clear signage near entrances where weapons detection occurs. These notices must inform the public about the screening process and emphasize that medical care will not be denied to anyone who refuses screening, in line with federal law.
- 3. Trained Personnel:** Hospitals must deploy systems that detect weapons to help prevent armed threats from entering. These systems must be operated by personnel trained by the Bureau of Security and Investigative Services (BSIS). The required training includes at least eight hours covering device operation, de-escalation techniques, and implicit bias awareness.

How to Prepare for Compliance

Start with a full risk assessment of your facility. This should include a CPTED consideration as well as the necessity of all portals of entry and their need for public entrance. After a full assessment begin to calculate the total number of entries to be secured, the time of each portal's hours of operation and total number of FTE's needed to operate your chosen solution. No matter what solution you choose to implement, the time it will take to hire and train additional manpower will be the greatest limiting item. No matter what solution you choose to implement, the time it will take to hire and train additional manpower will be the greatest limiting item—and also the largest cost center for your operational budget. For planning support, refer to the [Healthcare Security Guide](#) to help assess needs and prepare effectively.

**This guide is for informational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice.*



Hospital Readiness Checklist:

- 1. Assess Entrances & Layout:** Identify required screening points: main entrance, emergency department, labor & delivery. Evaluate architectural changes needed for compliance and accessibility.
- 2. Select Detection Systems:** Research compliant fixed weapons detection devices. (Handheld detectors may supplement but do not meet Cal/OSHA standards.)
- 3. Plan Infrastructure & Budget:** Review power, data, and structural needs and budget for equipment, upgrades, staffing, and ongoing operations.
- 4. Staffing & Training:** Determine staffing needs for screening coverage. Train personnel per BSIS standards: device use, de-escalation, and implicit bias.
- 5. Policy & Protocol Updates:** Update security policies and response protocols. Ensure protocols for handling weapons and refusal of screening (without denying care).
- 6. Communication Strategy:** Develop patient-friendly messaging to explain procedures and provide reassurance for visitors by posting clear signage at screening points.
- 7. Stakeholder Engagement:** Involve frontline staff, nurse leaders, and facility managers in planning.
- 8. System Testing:** Run full tests before March 1, 2027 to ensure readiness and staff proficiency.