

Security Perimeter Frequently Asked Questions

What is a Security Perimeter Vehicle Access Portal (SP VAP)?

Vehicle Access Portals will limit access into Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) property. The placement of VAPs at roadway access points into LANL resulted from several studies to determine the degree to which the site could be better protected. Individuals desiring access beyond the VAPs must abide by the access requirements set in place.

Where are the SP VAPs located?

Currently, there are two VAPs associated with the Security Perimeter Project; one is on East Jemez Road and the other is on West Jemez Road. The current SECON post located on Pajarito Road near White Rock will be re-designated as the third SP VAP when full operations begin.

The East Jemez VAP is located near the southeast corner of Diamond Drive and Jemez Road. It will process vehicle traffic entering the eastern portion of TA-3 area from southbound Diamond Drive from across Omega Bridge and from westbound East Jemez Road (a.k.a. the "Truck Route")

The West Jemez VAP is located near the Ski Hill Road intersection with West Jemez Road. It will process vehicle traffic entering the western portion of TA-3 area from eastbound West Jemez Road.

How will use of the SP VAPs work?

Use of the SP VAPs will allow LANL to limit vehicle and personnel access to sensitive locations of the Laboratory based on the Security Condition (SECON) level in effect at any given time.

What are the requirements to go through the SP VAPs?

Generally, at the East and West Jemez Road VAPs, if you are in a personally-owned, government or rental vehicle and wish to gain access beyond the VAP, and LANL is in SECON 3+ or lower you will not be required to present a security badge or ID such as a driver's license.

As of the publication of this FAQ document, LANL was in SECON 3+.

During higher SECON levels and depending on the level in effect, LANL may restrict access beyond SP VAPs to LANL security badge holders only or require vehicle drivers and passengers to present valid identification such as a driver's license.

Access controls regarding badging and ID requirements at the Pajarito Road VAP will not change.

What happens if I am driving another type of vehicle, such as a large commercial delivery vehicle?

Drivers of large (e.g. cargo vans, delivery trucks, etc.) commercial vehicles desiring access to areas beyond the SP VAPs will be required to have their vehicles inspected at Security Post 10 (a.k.a. the “Truck Inspection Station”) located on East Jemez Road near the intersection of State Road 4. After successful inspection, drivers will be given a pass which must be given to security personnel at the SP VAP.

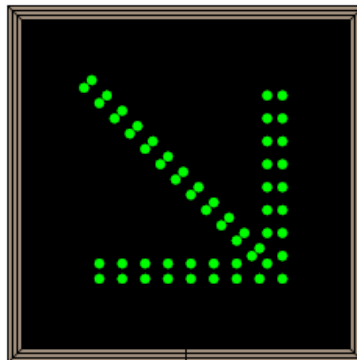
Can I walk by the VAP?

There is no provision for non-vehicle access beyond the VAPs.

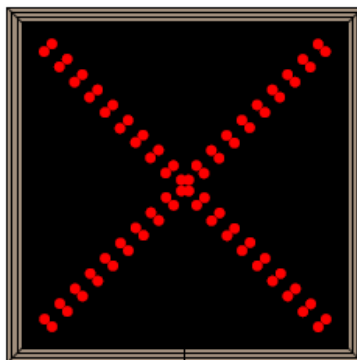
What can I expect as I drive up to an SP VAP?

Always keep safety in mind when approaching an SP VAP. Watch for pedestrians or other personnel in the area. Be mindful of adverse weather conditions and gauge your driving accordingly.

Unless otherwise directed by Protective Force personnel, select a traffic lane in which you see a lighted electronic sign that has a green arrow pointed down and to the right:



Do not select a traffic lane in which you see a lighted electronic sign that has a red “X”:



Also, unless otherwise directed by Protective Force personnel, do not select a traffic lane in which the electronic sign is blank. Remember – no matter what the signs in the area may indicate – if given, you must follow the verbal direction or hand signals given by Protective Force personnel; their direction always supersedes signs.

Each SP VAP post has standard traffic stop sign visible to oncoming traffic. You ***must*** stop momentarily at the location of the Protective Force officer. ***Do not proceed until the Protective Force officer indicates you may do so.***

If you have had your vehicle inspected at Security Post #10 and have been issued a pass, you must stop momentarily and hand over your pass to the PROTECTIVE FORCE officer. ***Do not proceed until the Protective Force officer indicates you may do so.***

I ride a bicycle. Do I have to stop momentarily at the VAP as well?

No. At the current SECON level (3+) bicyclists may proceed slowly and safely through the VAP. However, at higher SECON levels, bicyclists may be required to stop and present valid security badges or identification. Follow the direction of Protective Force officers.

I drive a motorcycle to work. When I pull up to the VAP and stop momentarily do I have to remove my helmet?

No, you do not have to remove your helmet while LANL is at SECON level 3+. When LANL goes to higher SECON levels, you may be required to remove your helmet and present a valid security badge or identification. Follow the direction of Protective Force officers.

Will non-badge holders be able to go through the security portals? How will non-lab people (tourists, etc.) be given access to points beyond?

At the current SECON level (3+) non-badge holders in regular vehicles (small, non-commercial delivery vehicles) will be able to go through the east and west Jemez VAPs without presenting security badges or ID.

Will vehicles be searched? Are there certain types of vehicles that will not be allowed through?

Generally, and under normal circumstances, small, non-commercial vehicles will not be searched at the VAPs during SECON 3+. However, they are still subject to visual assessment by a Protective Force Officer under certain conditions. Additionally, during SECON level 3+ and higher, large RVs, motor homes, 5th wheels, etc. will stop, and be checked by a Protective Force Officer at all VAPs.

Larger, commercial delivery vehicles that do not have government plates will be inspected (and receive a pass) at Security Post 10 (the "Truck Inspection Station") on East Jemez Road.