



FACT SHEET

SECURITY

- Security is a top priority for the Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations (OBO). All U.S. diplomatic facilities built under the Excellence initiative will meet all Department security and life safety standards.
- The Bureau of Diplomatic Security (DS) develops the security standards for diplomatic facilities, which OBO applies to its building projects.
- Architects and engineers are asked to design and develop improved methods, materials, and solutions to seamlessly integrate these requirements into the designs of facilities.
- OBO and DS physical, technical, and industrial security specialists are involved in project development from early site selection, planning, design, construction, and through occupancy.
- DS reviews the development of the design and construction at designated points in the process to ensure new facilities provide safe and secure workplaces.
- For new construction or major renovation projects that include the storage of classified materials or activities, DS certifies the project’s design and accredits the built facility.

SECURITY FEATURES REQUIRED AT EVERY NEWLY CONSTRUCTED EMBASSY

Security Requirements	Standard Embassy Design	Excellence Initiative
100’ setback*	✓	✓
Anti-ram barriers	✓	✓
Anti-climb barriers	✓	✓
Compound Access Controls	✓	✓
Public Access Controls	✓	✓
Forced Entry Protection	✓	✓
Ballistic Protection	✓	✓
Blast Protection	✓	✓
Safe Areas/ Havens	✓	✓
Technical Security Requirements	✓	✓

*Requirement of the Secure Embassy Construction and Counterterrorism Act of 1999.

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