



U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION

Department of Homeland Security

JANUARY 14, 2008

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS FOR WHTI

Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative

Areas that fall under the WHTI:

- Canada
- Mexico
- Bermuda
- The [Caribbean region](#) (includes 17 regions)

AIR TRAVEL

Implemented on January 23, 2007, **ALL PERSONS** traveling by **air** between the United States and Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, and the Caribbean region are required to present a passport or other valid travel document to enter or re-enter the United States.

LAND AND SEA TRAVEL

The following summarizes information available on the [Department of Homeland Security's website](#).

- **JANUARY 31, 2008**
U.S. and Canadian citizens will need to present either a [WHTI-compliant document](#), or a government-issued photo ID, such as a driver's license, plus proof of citizenship, such as a birth certificate. DHS also proposes to begin alternative procedures for U.S. and Canadian children at that time.
- **LATER**
At a later date, to be determined, the departments will implement the full requirements of the land and sea phase of WHTI. The proposed rules require most U.S. citizens entering the United States at sea or land ports of entry to have either a U.S. passport; a U.S. passport card; a trusted traveler card such as NEXUS, FAST, or SENTRI; a valid Merchant Mariner Document (MMD) when traveling in conjunction with official maritime business; or a valid U.S. Military identification card when traveling on official orders.

Note: The passport requirement does **NOT** apply to U.S. citizens traveling to or returning directly from a [U.S. territory](#).

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U.S. PASSPORT AND OTHER TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

- **U.S. Passport:** U.S. citizens may present a valid U.S. passport when traveling via air, land or sea between the U.S. and the aforementioned Western Hemisphere countries.
- **[The Passport Card:](#)** U.S. citizens may begin applying in advance for this new, limited-use, wallet-size passport card beginning February 1, 2008. We expect cards will be available and mailed to applicants in spring 2008. When available it will only be valid for land and sea travel between the U.S. and Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean region, and Bermuda.
- **Other Accepted Travel Documents:** SENTRI, [NEXUS](#), FAST and the U.S. Coast Guard Mariner Document. Members of the U.S. Armed Forces on active duty traveling on orders are exempt from the passport requirement. DHS has more information on these [travel documents](#). This information may be seen at www.dhs.gov.

ABOUT WHTI

The Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative is a result of the Intelligence Reform and Prevention Act of 2004 (IRTPA), requiring all travelers to present a passport or other document that denotes identity and citizenship when entering the U.S.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced on February 22 its intent to propose, as part of the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI), significant flexibility regarding travel documents required for U.S. and Canadian children as part of WHTI requirements for U.S. land and sea border entry in 2008.

The goal of the initiative is to strengthen U.S. border security while facilitating entry for U.S. citizens and legitimate foreign visitors by providing standardized documentation that enables the Department of Homeland Security to quickly and reliably identify a traveler.

Media Notes

- 09/04/2007 [DHS Reminds Carriers and Traveling Public About the End of the Temporary WHTI Accommodation](#)
- 06/08/2007 [Joint Departments of State and Homeland Security Announcement: U.S. Citizens with Pending Passport Applications Allowed Temporary Travel Flexibility Within Western Hemisphere](#)

Federal Regulations

- [Final Rule - Air Phase](#) ( PDF)
- [Final Rule - Passport Card](#) ( PDF)
- [Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on Land/Sea Rule](#) ( PDF)

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Other Relevant Links

- [Department of Homeland Security](#)
- [U.S. Customs and Border Protection](#)

This memo is a heads up as to follow up with proper documentation for US Citizens to travel within the Western Hemisphere. The US Passport cost is \$97 and the Passport Card is still under development and not available yet, but should be priced at a lower cost. Implementation of these rules has yet to be determined.

Any question please call me.

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