



What is the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI)?

The Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative proposes to require all travelers to and from the United States, Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, Central and South America and the British Overseas Territory of Bermuda to have a passport or other accepted document that establishes the bearer's identity and citizenship to enter or re-enter the United States.

Why is it being implemented?

The Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (IRTPA) mandated that the U.S. Departments of Homeland Security and State develop and implement a plan to require U.S. citizens and foreign nationals to present a passport or other appropriate identity and citizenship documentation when entering the United States.

The goal of this program is to strengthen border security and facilitate entry into the United States for U.S. citizens and legitimate international visitors.

Who will WHTI affect?

The travel initiative will affect all *United States citizens entering or re-entering the United States.*

It will also affect *certain foreign nationals* who currently are not required to present a passport to travel to the United States, namely most Canadian citizens, citizens of the British Overseas Territory of Bermuda and Mexican citizens.

When will the initiative go into effect?

This initiative will be rolled out in phases, providing as much advance notice as possible to the affected public to enable them to meet the terms of the proposed timeline.

The proposed timeline will be as follows:

- **January 8, 2007** – Requirement applied to all air and sea travel from Canada, Mexico, Central and South America, the Caribbean and Bermuda to the U.S.
- **January 1, 2008** – Requirement extended to all air, sea and land border crossings.

What other documents will be acceptable?

Passports are the document of choice because of security features and internationally accepted standards for international travel. However, the Department of Homeland Security is proposing the Merchant Mariner Document (MMD) and NEXUS Air Card as other acceptable travel documents to enter the U.S. when arriving by air and sea.

Is the U.S. government accepting feedback on the initiative?

Yes. While the Departments of Homeland Security and State have completed a public comment period on the Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM) in the Federal Register, the public currently has an opportunity to comment on the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking relating to the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative for air and sea through September 25, 2006.

Comments may be submitted by one of the following methods:

- **Federal e-Rulemaking Portal:** www.regulations.gov. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.
- **Mail:** Comments by mail are to be addressed to the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection, Office of Regulations and Rulings, Border Security Regulations Branch, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20229.

Submissions must include the agency name and docket number "USCBP 2006-0097." Comments will be posted without change to www.regulations.gov, including any personal information sent with a comment.

The Departments of Homeland Security and State will issue a separate Notice of Proposed Rulemaking proposing rules for land travel at a later date, sufficiently in advance of the rules' implementation date.

Where do I find out more information on WHTI?

Department of Homeland Security, www.dhs.gov
Department of State, www.travel.state.gov

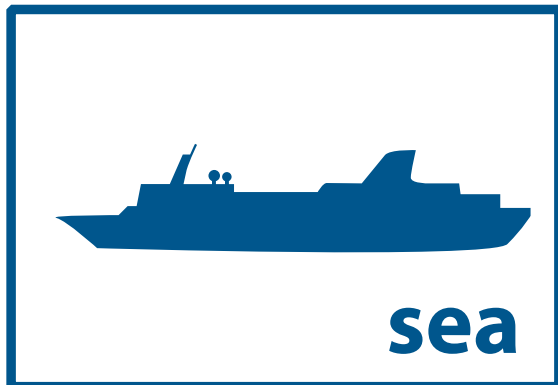
AS OF JANUARY 8, 2007*



All U.S. citizens must present a passport or other acceptable identity/citizenship document** to enter the United States when arriving by air or sea.



-or-



* Proposed Date ** Other proposed acceptable identity/citizenship documents include the Merchant Mariner Document and NEXUS Air Card.