

Passport Requirement for Air Travel into the United States

Citizens of the United States, Canada, Mexico, and Bermuda are required to present a passport to enter the United States when arriving by air from any part of the Western Hemisphere beginning January 23, 2007.

The passport requirement is part of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI) of the Departments of State and Homeland Security. This change in travel document requirements is the result of recommendations made by the 9/11 Commission, which the U.S. Congress subsequently passed into law in the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004.

The implementation timeline has two phases:

- Beginning **January 23, 2007**, ALL persons, including U.S. citizens, traveling by **air** between the United States and Canada, Mexico, Central and South America, the Caribbean, and Bermuda will be required to present a valid passport, Air NEXUS card, or U.S. Coast Guard Merchant Mariner Document, or an Alien Registration Card, Form I-551, if applicable.
- As early as **January 1, 2008**, ALL persons, including U.S. citizens, traveling between the U.S. and Canada, Mexico, Central and South America, the Caribbean, and Bermuda by **land** or **sea** (including ferries), may be required to present a valid passport or other documents as determined by the Department of Homeland Security. While recent legislative changes permit a later deadline, the Departments of State and Homeland Security are working to meet all requirements as soon as possible. Ample advance notice will be provided to enable the public to obtain passports or passport cards for land/sea entries.

The passport requirement does NOT apply to U.S. citizens traveling to or returning directly from a U.S. territory. U.S. citizens returning directly from a U.S. territory are not considered to have left the United States and do not need to present a passport. U.S. territories include the following: Guam, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Swains Island, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

You can apply for a U.S. passport at many post offices around the country. Your passport photo can be taken at these post offices as well. Application forms and complete instructions are available at www.usps.com/passport.

U.S. Passport Fees (effective March 8, 2005).

Passport Service	Acceptance Fee	Application Fee	Total Fees
Age 16 and over	\$30	\$67	\$97
Under Age 16	\$30	\$52	\$82

All **Canadian** citizens including infants and children need to have their own passport when traveling internationally. For more information check out the following Passport Canada website: www.pptc.gc.ca.

Websites Referenced:
http://travel.state.gov/travel/travel_1744.html
<http://www.dhs.gov/index.shtm>
<http://www.usps.com/>
www.pptc.gc.ca