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## Documents You Will Need to Enter the United States

**U.S. Citizens:** The Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative will soon require all travelers to and from the Americas, the Caribbean, and Bermuda to have a passport or other accepted form of documentation to enter or reenter the United States. The program will be rolled out in phases. The proposed timeline is as follows:



- As of 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.
- 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.

\*Lawful permanent residents (LPRs), refugees, and asylees will continue to be able to use their Alien Registration Card (Form I-551), issued by DHS, or other valid evidence of permanent residence status or refugee or asylee status to apply for entry to the United States.

### Travel Documents for U.S. Citizens Under WHTI

Under the proposed implementation plan, the following documents will be acceptable to fulfill document requirements:

- U.S. Passport: U.S. citizens may present a valid U.S. passport when traveling via air between the United States and Canada, Mexico, Central and South America, the Caribbean, and Bermuda, and may also use a U.S. passport when traveling via sea and land borders (including ferry crossings).
- The Passport Card (also referred to as the PASS Card): This limited-use passport in card format is currently under development and will be available for use for travel only via land or sea (including ferries) between the U.S. and Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Bermuda. Similar in size to a credit card, it will fit easily into a wallet.
- DOS and DHS also anticipate that the following documents will continue to be acceptable for their current travel uses under WHTI: SENTRI, NEXUS, FAST, and the U.S. Coast Guard Merchant Mariner Document. As proposed, members of the U.S. Armed Forces on active duty traveling on orders will continue to be exempt from the passport requirement.

View pictures of the required documents. ( [Pictures of Documents That Travelers Will Need \(pdf - 490 KB.\)](#) )

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### U.S. Lawful Permanent Residents (LPRs)

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must provide one of the following:

- I-551, Permanent Resident Card (“Green Card”)
- Machine-Readable Immigrant Visa endorsed with a CBP Admission Stamp
- Temporary Residence Stamp (ADIT stamp) contained in a passport or on Form I-94
- Valid Reentry Permit
- Unexpired Immigrant Visa

View pictures of the required documents. ( [Pictures of Documents That Travelers Will Need \(pdf - 490 KB.\)](#) )

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**Visitors/Non-immigrants** must provide:

- Generally, a valid unexpired passport and visa. (However, certain people may require specific supporting documentation such as an employment petition, student authorization, or approval notice.)
- Citizens of countries authorized to participate in the Visa Waiver Program are required to present an unexpired machine-readable passport. (For additional information refer to the State Department. ( [U.S Department of State](#) )
- Mexicans may provide a passport and valid DSP-150 (BCC) in lieu of a visa.
- Nationals of countries authorized to participate in the Visa Waiver Program are required to present an unexpired passport.

View pictures of the required documents. ( [Pictures of Documents That Travelers Will Need \(pdf - 490 KB.\)](#) )

## see also:

### on **cbp.gov**:

[Travel Spotlight](#)

[Pictures of Documents That Travelers Will Need \(pdf - 490 KB.\)](#)

### on **dhs.gov** site:

[U.S Department of State](#)

[U.S. Department of State](#)

[U.S. Embassies, Consulates, and Diplomatic Missions](#)

### on the web:

[U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services](#)