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Printed:

Sat Mar 3 07:48:31 EST 2007

Outlying Area Reporting Station (OARS)

The Outlying Area Reporting Station (OARS) has been developed as an innovative alternative to the Canadian Border Boat Landing Program or, as it is commonly known, the I-68 program (seasonal permit). The I-68 program allows certain persons who enter the United States by small boat to be inspected once per year, and thereafter enter from time to time for recreational purposes without further inspection. Boaters who choose not to obtain Form I-68 must report in person for inspection at a Port-of-Entry (POE) upon each entry to the United States.

The OARS program uses videophones, typically located at public marinas, which boaters may use to report to U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers.

The system is comprised of an AutoDial telephone, a video transceiver, a monitor, a facial camera and a document camera. To operate the system, the traveler either picks up the handset or pushes the inspector call button. This system allows both the traveler and the inspector to view one another as the inspection is taking place.

OARS is not a replacement for traditional physical inspections. Currently 37 OARS units have been deployed. For more information about participating in OARS please contact the following Districts: Buffalo, NY, Cleveland, OH, Detroit, MI, Portland, ME, Philadelphia, PA and St. Paul, MN.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Who is eligible to participate in this program?

A: United States citizens, Lawful Permanent Residents of the United States, Canadian citizens, Landed Commonwealth Residents of Canada, and nationals of designated Visa Waiver Pilot Program countries with a valid, stamped I-94 or I-94W, Arrival/Departure Record.

Q: What is the length of the inspection?

A: The inspection time is comparable to a land border inspection. If the boater is not readily admissible, the boater will be referred to an open Port-of-Entry.

Q: How are the site selections made?

A: The OARS units have been deployed to areas where the public has easy access to them such as public gas docks, boating marinas, and state parks.

Q: How Do I Enroll in OARS?

A: United States citizens, Lawful Permanent Residents of the United States, Canadian citizens, Landed Commonwealth Residents of Canada, and nationals of designated Visa Waiver Pilot Program countries with a valid, stamped I-94 or I-94W, Arrival/Departure Record are eligible to participate in this program.

For more information about participating in OARS please contact the following Districts: Buffalo, NY, Cleveland, OH, Detroit, MI, Portland, ME, Philadelphia, PA and St. Paul, MN. Please see our field offices home page for more information on contacting immigration offices.

see also:

 **on the web:**

[CBP Immigration-related Field Offices](#)