

“New registration rule for travelling to the USA January 2009”

Frequently asked questions

Schiphol Travel International, August 11th 2008, 15:07 Hrs.



Frequently Asked Questions & Answers

Q1) What Nationalities does this apply to?

A1) This only applies to citizens that are Eligible for the Visa Waiver Programme, for business or pleasure trips 90 days or less.

Q2) Which nationalities are eligible under this scheme?

A2)

Andorra
Austria
Australia
Belgium
Brunei
Denmark
Finland
France
Germany
Iceland
Ireland
Italy
Japan
Liechtenstein
Luxembourg
Monaco
The Netherlands
New Zealand
Norway
Portugal
San Marino
Singapore
Slovenia
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
United Kingdom

Q3) Do I have to do this before I travel to United States?

A3) No you can still fill out the forms when you land, but this will become compulsory from 12th January 2009.

Q4) What if I am a citizen of a Country that is not named above?

A4) Then you must apply for a Visa through the American Embassy.

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Q5) My Country is part for the Visa Waiver Programme, but does my passport need to be digital or an E passport?

A5) If your passport was issued;

- Before 26th October 2005 - Then the minimum requirement is that your passport must be machine readable.
- Before 26th October 2006 - Then the minimum requirement is that your passport must be machine readable, and must have a digital photograph.
- After 26th October 2006 - Then your passport must be an E-passport.

Please see further information on the following website.

http://www.cbp.gov/linkhandler/cgov/travel/id_visa/business_pleasure/vwp/vwp_timeline.ctt/vwp_timeline.pdf

Q6) How Long can I stay in United States on a Visa Waiver Programme?

A6) The max stay is 90 days. If you plan to stay longer then you need to apply to the US Embassy.

Q7) Do I have to apply each time I travel to US?

A7) The visa is valid for multiple entries for up to 2 years, or when your passport expires. Which ever comes soonest.

Q8) What if I change my destination address after my Visa Waiver has been approved online?

A8) Then you can easily update the details on ESTA.

Q9) What happens if I forget?

A9) If you are a citizen of the countries above then you can fill out the forms, however if you forget after 12th January 2009 you could be denied boarding.

Q10) I already have a Visa Waiver via ESTA but on my next trip I will be staying at a different address, do I have to do anything?

A10) Yes you need to update your details on ESTA website


<https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov/esta/esta.html>

Q11) Why do I have to seek this authorisation before I travel?

A11) To strengthen the security of travel to the United States under the Visa Waiver Program, requirements to travel visa-free have been enhanced. Nationals of Visa Waiver Program countries will still be eligible to travel without a visa but will have to obtain an approved travel authorization prior to their travel to the United States.

Here is how the travel authorization process works:

The Department of Homeland Security and the United States Customs and Border Protection have provided a secure public Web site with an automated form for you, or a third party, to complete in order to apply for a travel authorization. Once you enter the required biographic and travel information on the secure Web site, your application is processed by the system to determine if you are eligible to travel to the United States under the Visa Waiver Program without a visa. The system will provide you with an automated response, and prior to boarding, a carrier will electronically verify with the United States Customs and Border Protection that you have an approved travel authorization on file.

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Q12) What information can I update?

A12)

E-mail address

Telephone number

Airline and flight number

City where you are boarding

Address while in the United States

Q13) What if my passport number changes ?

A13) If you obtain a new passport, or any info on your passport changes then you need to apply for a NEW Travel authorisation.

Q14) How much does this cost?

A14) Currently this is free, but there may be a charge in the near future.

Q15) What happens if the Travel Authorisation is denied?


A15) Only the US Embassy can advise why this has happened. You could still be granted, but this could take a few weeks to obtain a visa.

Q16) My passport is due to run out in 5 months, can I still travel?

A16) Your passport must be valid for at least 6months beyond your intended visit.

Q17) Where can I get more information on the Visa Waiver Programme?

A17) http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/travel/id_visa/business_pleasure/vwp/vwp.xml

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