



**U.S. Customs and  
Border Protection**

JAN 07 2012

MEMORANDUM FOR: Directors, Field Operations  
Office of Field Operations  
  
Director, Preclearance  
(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

FROM: Executive Director  
Admissibility and Passenger Programs

SUBJECT: Determining the Admissibility of Travelers with an Approved  
Electronic System for Travel Authorization

On August 1, 2008 the Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA) program was implemented in accordance with section 711 of the "Implementing Recommendations of the 911 Commission Act of 2007". ESTA is an automated system used to (b) (7)(E)

(b) (7)(E)

An approved ESTA application authorizes a traveler to board a carrier to travel to the United States under the VWP. An approved travel authorization is not a visa. It does not meet the legal or regulatory requirements to serve in lieu of a United States visa when a visa is required under United States law. An approved travel authorization does not guarantee that an alien is admissible to the United States.

It is the port of entry's responsibility to determine if an alien is admissible to the United States using all of the available tools at their disposal and all available information at the time of application for admission. This may include but not be limited to (b) (7)(E)

(b) (7)(E)

For additional guidance on how to process an arriving VWP applicant please refer to the memo/muster date November 25, 2011 titled "ESTA and Visa Waiver Program (VWP) Passenger Processing".

Please ensure that this memorandum and muster are disseminated to all ports of entry within your jurisdiction.

If you have questions or require additional information, please contact (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) Program Manager, Electronic System for Travel Authorization at (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)