

February 19, 2008

MEMORANDUM FOR: EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS, FIELD OPERATIONS
DIRECTORS, FIELD OPERATIONS
ACTING DIRECTOR, PRECLEARANCE OPERATIONS

FROM: Assistant Commissioner /s/ Thomas S. Winkowski
Office of Field Operations

SUBJECT: Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative
Enforcement for Air Travelers

Effective January 23, 2007, and pursuant to Section 7209 of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (IRTPA), U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) implemented Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI) document requirements for international air travelers arriving at or departing from United States air ports of entry. Since that date, citizens of the United States, Canada, Mexico and Bermuda have been required to present a passport or other acceptable travel document recognized under WHTI. Guidance regarding these new requirements was provided to the Field Offices in the December 21, 2006, CBP, Office of Field Operations (OFO), memorandum "Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI) Phased Enforcement Strategy for Air Travelers." The policy outlined below provides specific direction regarding the progression to full enforcement of the WHTI Air Enforcement Strategy. Field Offices will begin enforcement on February 19, 2008. In addition, CBP has provided advance notice to the air carriers on full enforcement of WHTI document requirements in the air environment. (Attached)



Full Enforcement of WHTI for Air Travelers

Under WHTI Air Informed Compliance, noncompliant U.S. citizens and nonimmigrants were

(b) (7)(E)

CBP has been monitoring WHTI compliance in the air environment daily (b) (7)(E)
(b) (7)(E)

Air carriers are required to transmit passport or other WHTI-compliant travel document information through the Advance Passenger Information System (APIS) for passengers entering or departing the United States. (b) (7)(E)

To assist air carriers, CBP has provided the following guidance:

- Coordination with the appropriate CBP Port of Entry will ensure that emergent and/or humanitarian situations are managed in an efficient and expeditious manner, mitigating any undue adverse impact on air travel.
- In the case of unscheduled, urgent flight arrivals or departures due to mechanical, medical, or security situations necessitating a deviation, (b) (7)(E). In these types of situations, air carriers should notify the appropriate CBP Port Director at the Port of Entry or CBP Preclearance station for further processing information.

Noncompliant U.S. Citizens:

(b) (7)(E)

Citizens of the United States

- (b) (7)(E) [Redacted]
- (b) (7)(E) [Redacted]

(b) (7)(E) [Redacted]

(b) (7)(E) [Redacted]

(b) (7)(E) [Redacted]

(b) (7)(E) [Redacted]

Noncompliant Nonimmigrants:

(b) (7)(E) [Redacted]

(b) (7) (E)

Citizens of Canada or Mexico

(b) (7) (E)

(b) (7) (E)

Please find attached a muster topic to brief CBP Officers regarding procedures for WHTI Enforcement for Air Travelers. If you have any questions or concerns, please have a member of your staff contact (b) (7)(C), (b) (6), Director, WHTI, at (b) (6), (b) (7)(C).

Attachments: Muster

Weekly Muster

Week of Muster: **February 17, 2008 – February 23, 2008**

Topic: Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative - Enforcement for Air Travelers

HQ POC: Colleen Manaher, OFO – WHTI Program Management Office
(202) 344-3003

Message: **Inform CBP Officers on WHTI Enforcement Requirements for Air Travelers effective February 19, 2008**

What changes are expected when WHTI air enforcement takes effect February 19, 2008?

- WHTI Enforcement for Air Travelers entails full compliance by travelers with WHTI travel document requirements beginning February 19, 2008.
- Air carriers are required to transmit passport or other WHTI-compliant travel document information through the Advance Passenger Information System (APIS) for passengers entering or departing the United States.

(b) (7)(E)

How will noncompliant U.S. Citizens be processed?

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Under what circumstances may a U.S. Citizen be admitted without WHTI compliant documentation?

(b) (7)(E)

(b) (7)(E)

What about processing first time offenders who are Noncompliant Nonimmigrants?

(b) (7) (E)

What about processing citizens of Canada or Mexico?

(b) (7) (E)