



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

MAY 19 2011

MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Directors
Field Operations

Directors, Field Operations
Office of Field Operations

Director, Preclearance
Operations (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

FROM: Executive Director
Admissibility and Pa

SUBJECT: Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative
Procedures for Air Travelers

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) implemented Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI) document requirements for international air travelers on January 23, 2007. Since that date, citizens of the United States, Canada, Mexico and Bermuda have been required to present a passport or other acceptable travel document when arriving into the United States by air. CBP implemented an “informed compliance” phased enforcement strategy, which transitioned to full enforcement on February 19, 2008. (b) (7)(E)

This memorandum serves as an update and reminder of the proper procedures for processing noncompliant travelers in the air environment.

WHTI-compliant documents for air travel include:

- Valid passport
- U.S. military identification card with official orders
- NEXUS card (when departing from specific Canadian airports)
- Merchant Mariner’s Document (for U.S. citizens on official maritime business)

Noncompliant U.S. Citizens:

It remains CBP policy that U.S. citizens arriving by air who are WHTI noncompliant should be

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Noncompliant Nonimmigrants:

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Additional Considerations:

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Procedures for handling medical or non-medical emergencies remain unchanged (b) (5), (b) (7)(E)

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If you have any

questions or concerns, please have a member of your staff contact (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Director, Land Border Integration PMO, at (b) (6), (b) (7)(E)

Attachments

Weekly Muster

Week of Muster: Upon Receipt

Topic: Processing WHTI Noncompliant Air Travelers

HQ POC: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) Land Border Integration PMO, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Citizens of the United States, Canada, Mexico and Bermuda arriving into the United States by air have been required to present a passport or other acceptable travel document since implementation of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI) on January 23, 2007. ^A

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WHTI-compliant documents for air travel include:

- Valid passport
- U.S. military identification card with official orders
- NEXUS card (when departing from specific Canadian airports)
- Merchant Mariner's Document (for U.S. citizens on official maritime business)

Noncompliant U.S. Citizens:

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Noncompliant Nonimmigrants:

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Additional Considerations:

Requirements for Lawful Permanent Residents (LPRs) are not affected by WHTI. LPRs must continue to present a valid Permanent Resident Card (I-551). A passport is not required. Parolees, asylees, refugees, and those presenting boarding letters are also not affected by WHTI.

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Review:

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Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative: Procedures for Processing Noncompliant Air Travelers

Training

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May 2011



Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI) Air

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