

October 20, 2008

MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Directors, Field Operations  
Directors, Field Operations  
Director, Preclearance Operations

FROM: Assistant Commissioner /s/  
Office of Field Operations

SUBJECT: Use of the Passport Card in the Air Environment for  
Emergency Situations

The U.S. Department of State (DOS) has recently issued guidance to their consular posts outlining procedures for the use of the Passport Card in the air environment for certain emergency situations. In such situations, DOS is responsible for making arrangements with the air carriers and providing advanced notice to the appropriate U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) air port of entry or preclearance location.

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A U.S. citizen presenting a Passport Card in the air environment in such emergency situations will be considered to be Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI)-compliant. DOS has the authority to waive the passport requirement in certain emergency and humanitarian situations. Additionally, under no circumstances may CBP refuse entry to a U.S. citizen.

The Passport Card is issued only to U.S. citizens, and was designed to facilitate entry and expedite document processing at land and sea ports of entry. Please find the attached document outlining the security features of the Passport Card, as well as the DOS guidance on the use of the card for emergency air travel.

If you have any questions or concerns, please have a member of your staff contact Ms. (b) (7)(C), (b) (6) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), Director, WHTI, at (b) (6), (b) (7)(C).

Attachments