



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

May 14, 2009

MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Directors  
Field Operations

Directors, Field Operations  
Office of Field Operations

Director, Preclearance  
Operations

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

FROM: Assistant Commissioner  
Office of Field Operations

SUBJECT: Land/Sea Travel Document Requirements Effective June 1, 2009

Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI) documentary requirements for land and sea travel will go into effect on June 1, 2009 at 0001 hours. U.S., Canadian, and Bermudian citizens that were previously exempt document requirements will be required to present a WHTI-compliant document for entry into the United States at land and sea ports of entry beginning June 1. This memo outlines the document requirements, operational procedures and certain exceptions.

**Land/Sea Travel Document Requirements Effective June 1, 2009:**

**WHTI-Compliant Documents:**

- U.S., Canadian, or Bermudian passports
- U.S. Passport Card
- Enhanced Driver's Licenses
- Trusted Traveler Cards (NEXUS, SENTRI, or FAST)
- Form I-872 American Indian Card, or Enhanced Tribal Cards (when available)
- Military Identification Cards (for members of the U.S. armed forces on official orders)
- U.S. Merchant Mariner Document (for U.S. citizens on official maritime business)

**Children:** U.S. and Canadian citizen children under age 16 arriving by land or sea from contiguous territory may present an original or copy of his or her birth certificate, a Consular Report of Birth Abroad, a Naturalization Certificate, or a Canadian Citizenship Card.

**Groups of Children:** U.S. and Canadian citizen children under age 19 arriving by land or sea from contiguous territory and traveling with a school group, religious group, social or cultural organization, or sports team, may also present an original or copy of his or her birth certificate, a Consular Report of Birth Abroad, a Naturalization Certificate, or a Canadian Citizenship Card.

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The group should provide, on organizational letterhead:

- The name of the group and supervising adult.
- A list of the children on the trip, the primary home address, phone number, date of birth, place of birth, and name of at least one parent or legal guardian for each child.
- A written and signed statement of the supervising adult certifying that he or she has obtained parental or legal guardian consent for each participating child.

(b) (7)(E)

**“Closed Loop” Cruises:** U.S. citizens who board a cruise ship at a port within the United States, travel only within the Western Hemisphere, and return to the same U.S. port on the same ship may present a government issued photo identification, along with proof of citizenship (an original or copy of his or her birth certificate, a Consular report of Birth Abroad, or a Certificate of Naturalization).

**Canadian Border Boat Landing (I-68) and Local Boater Option (LBO) programs:** Beginning

(b) (7)(E)

**Lawful Permanent Residents (LPRs):** Requirements for LPRs are not changed by the implementation of WHTI. LPRs must continue to present a valid Permanent Resident Card (I-551), or alternative evidence of lawful residence according to existing policies and procedures. A passport is not required.

**Mexican Citizens:** May present a Border Crossing Card (BCC) as a *stand-alone* document for entry from Mexico only (by land or by pleasure vessel or ferry). The BCC also serves as a B1/B2 nonimmigrant visa, and together with a valid passport, it meets the documentary requirements for entry at all land, air, and sea ports of entry.

**International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC):** U.S. citizen IBWC workers presenting an IBWC card while crossing the border from Mexico on official business are exempt WHTI land/sea document requirements. Mexican citizen IBWC workers on official business may also present their IBWC card and are exempt passport and visa requirements pursuant to 8 CFR §212.1(c)(5).

**Trusted Traveler Program Applicants:** Travelers entering the United States specifically for a Trusted Traveler Program interview and presenting an Acceptance Letter will be admitted

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(b) (7)(E)

Operations Beginning June 1, 2009:

CBP will be practical and flexible in implementing WHTI document requirements on June 1, 2009. The focus of the following guidelines is on deliberately non-compliant travelers, not on the elderly, children, infrequent travelers, or those who are unaware of the requirements. The goal of initial implementation is to encourage and achieve compliance, not to unnecessarily inconvenience those who are uninformed.

(b) (7)(E)

The majority of non-compliant U.S. and Canadian citizens, once advised of the requirements, will be admitted on primary. (b) (7)(E)

(b) (7)(E)

Exceptions to these procedures include instances when:

(b) (7)(E)

(b) (5), (b) (7)(E)

(b) (7)(E)

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CBP officers should utilize the attached verbal advisory script to assist them in informing non-compliant U.S. and Canadian citizens about WHTI document requirements. Appropriate document applications and WHTI information should also be made available to non-compliant travelers in secondary.

(b) (7)(E)

Upon initial WHTI implementation on June 1, CBP intends to exercise the statutory authority under §212(d)(4)(A) of the Immigration and Nationality Act to admit non-compliant Canadian citizens who establish identity and citizenship and are otherwise found admissible without requiring Form I-193, *Application for Waiver of Passport and/or Visa*.

**Special Circumstances:**

**Members of U.S. Native American tribes:** CBP is currently working with several Native American tribes toward the creation of Enhanced Tribal Card (ETC) programs, which upon designation by CBP, will be WHTI-compliant documents. Despite the significant work and progress that has been made, it is unlikely that these tribes will have ETCs issued to their members by June 1, 2009.

Members of U.S. Native American tribes may continue to present their current tribal photo-identification cards for entry into the United States. (b) (7)(E)

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**Members of Canadian tribes:** Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) is working to issue a Secure Certificate of Indian Status (SCIS) card to members of Canadian tribal entities. (b) (7)(E)

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**Old Order Amish and Old Order Mennonite communities:** Members of Old Order Amish and Old Order Mennonite communities may not be in possession of a WHTI-compliant document due to specific religious beliefs. U.S. citizen members may establish identity and citizenship through alternative documents. Identity may be established with an approved Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Form 4029, *Application for Exemption From Social Security and Medicare Taxes and Waiver of Benefits*. U.S. citizenship may be established with a birth certificate, Consular Report of Birth Abroad, U.S. Certificate of Naturalization, or U.S. Certificate of Citizenship.

(b) (7)(E)


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(b) (7)(E)



Further guidance and outreach will be provided to the specific ports of entry most used by Amish and Mennonite travelers, although the above guidance is applicable to all land and sea ports of entry.

**Port Flexibility:** With the goal of encouraging documentary compliance, Port (b) (7)(E)



Please find attached a muster topic on procedures for enforcement of WHTI documentary requirements. If you have any questions or concerns, please have a member of your staff contact (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) Director, WHTI, at (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Attachments

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## Weekly Muster

**Week of Muster:** Upon Receipt

**Topic:** Implementation of WHTI Land/Sea Documentary Requirements

**HQ POC:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) DFO – WHTI Program Management Office  
(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

**Message:** Procedures for implementation of WHTI land/sea documentary requirements effective June 1, 2009.

Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI) documentary requirements for land and sea travel go into effect on June 1, 2009 at 0001 hours. U.S., Canadian, and Bermudian citizens that were previously exempt document requirements will be required to present a WHTI-compliant document for entry into the United States at land and sea ports of entry beginning June 1.

### Land/Sea Travel Document Requirements Effective June 1, 2009:

#### WHTI-Compliant Documents:

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**Children:** U.S. and Canadian citizen children under age 16 (and those under age 19 traveling with a school group, religious group, social or cultural organization, or sports team) arriving by land or sea from contiguous territory may present an original or copy of his or her birth certificate, a Consular Report of Birth Abroad, a Naturalization Certificate, or a Canadian Citizenship Card.

#### Operations Beginning June 1, 2009:

CBP will be practical and flexible in implementing WHTI document requirements on June 1, 2009. The focus of the following guidelines is on deliberately non-compliant travelers, not on the elderly, children, infrequent travelers, or those who are unaware of the requirements. The goal of initial implementation is to encourage and achieve compliance, not to unnecessarily inconvenience those who are uninformed.

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**Special Circumstances:**

**Members of U.S. Native American tribes:** Members of U.S. Native American tribes may continue to present their current tribal photo-identification cards for entry into the United States.

(b) (7)(E)

**Members of Canadian tribes:** Members of Canadian tribes may continue to present a valid and lawfully-issued INAC card for purposes of establishing identity and citizenship.

**Verbal Advisory for Travelers not in Compliance with WHTI  
Land/Sea Documentary Requirements:**

**Script for CBP Officers:**

**(b) (7) (E)**

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AIILA Doc. No. 19072515. (Posted 7/25/19)