



Welcome to the United States

A Guide for International
Visitors



U.S. Customs and
Border Protection

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Introduction

Welcome to the United States. We are glad that you decided to visit, study, work, conduct business or come permanently to the United States.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is a diverse organization responsible for a wide-ranging set of missions that protect the United States against terrorists, other criminals and illegal activity while facilitating legitimate trade and travel. The information in this brochure will help you prepare for your trip and ensure that your experience entering the United States is as smooth as possible. Your cooperation with us will help speed you along your way.

Important note: The information in this brochure was correct as of the date of printing. For the most up-to-date information, please visit our Web site at www.cbp.gov.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection Mission Statement

We are the guardians of our Nation's borders.

We are America's frontline.

*We safeguard the American homeland at and
beyond our borders.*

*We protect the American public against terrorists
and the instruments of terror.*

*We steadfastly enforce the laws of the United States
while fostering our Nation's economic security through
lawful international trade and travel.*

*We serve the American public with vigilance, integrity
and professionalism.*

Preparing For Your Trip

International Visitors Checklist

- ___ Passport. (Unless exempt) Most temporary visits require passports, which must be valid for six months beyond their intended period of stay (exceptions apply). Make a copy and put it in a separate place. Carry your passport—do not pack it. For Visa Waiver countries, as of June 26, 2005 all participants (including infants) are required to have machine-readable passports. Passports issued on or after October 26, 2005, must contain a digital photo, and if issued as of October 26, 2006, the passport must be an “E-passport.” See www.cbp.gov for more information.
- ___ The appropriate unexpired visa (nonimmigrant visa, when applicable). If coming permanently, make a copy and put it in a separate place. Carry your immigrant visa—do not pack it.
- ___ Carry only medication needed for the trip, in its original container.
- ___ Carry only jewelry needed for the trip.
- ___ If bringing a pet, have a health certificate and proof of rabies vaccination from a veterinarian in the country of residence. (The airline may require a health certification for a cat.)
- ___ Have notarized travel permission letters for minors traveling without their parents, if possible. If the child is only accompanied by one parent, the adult should have a notarized note from the child's other parent—or, in the case of a child traveling with grandparents, uncles or aunts, sisters or brothers, or friends, a note signed by both parents, stating "I acknowledge that my wife/husband/etc. is traveling out of the country with my son/daughter. He/She/They have my permission to do so."

Visa Waiver Program (VWP) Visitors

To participate in the VWP program you must be a citizen of a participating VWP country. The 27 countries participating in the VWP are:

Andorra	Ireland	San Marino
Australia	Italy	Singapore
Austria	Japan	Slovenia
Belgium	Liechtenstein	Spain
Brunei	Luxembourg	Sweden
Denmark	Monaco	Switzerland
Finland	The Netherlands	United Kingdom*
France	New Zealand	
Germany	Norway	
Iceland	Portugal	

*British citizens only with the unrestricted right of abode in England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man.

- Each applicant (including infants) must be in possession of a passport from a VWP country valid for six months beyond the period of your intended stay, or essentially nine months (90 day + 6 months). Passports issued before October 26, 2005, must be machine-readable.
- Passports issued on or after October 26, 2005, and before October 26, 2006, must contain a digital photo.
- Passports issued on or after October 26, 2006, must be an “E-passport”, which must contain an integrated chip that stores biographic data, a digitized photo, and other biographic information. Applicants must be entering only as a visitor for business (WB) or pleasure (WT).
- Applicants cannot be admitted for more than 90 days.
- Applicants must present a signed and completed Form I-94W.

- Applicants arriving by air or sea must arrive on a carrier that is signatory to the VWP.
- Applicants arriving by air or sea must possess a ticket, valid for at least one year, to any foreign place/port other than Canada or Mexico or an adjacent island unless you permanently reside there.
- Applicants arriving at land borders are required to prove economic solvency and a foreign residence to which they intend to return.
- Applicants who were previously removed from the U.S. as “deportable aliens” and those who have previously violated the terms of their admission (i.e. overstaying their visit), even if not formally apprehended or removed, must apply for a visa.
- Applicants must not fall under any inadmissibility provision, or appear in any “lookout” database.

Special requirements for VWP travelers from **Austria, Italy, France** and **Germany**:

- **Austria:** The Austrian visa “foil” was an acceptable alternative means of compliance with the digital photo requirement for VWP applicants. The foil was used for newly issued passports as well as for passports that had been renewed. In both cases, the foil was valid for a maximum of 12 months. The machine-readable zone shows the period of validity, which in no case was later than December 31, 2006.
- **Italy:** If your regular Italian passport was issued or renewed on or after October 26, 2005, and includes a digital photo, you are compliant with VWP requirements.
- **France:** If you are traveling with a French passport issued on or after October 26, 2005, that does not have an electronic chip you will need to apply for a U.S. visa. It will have a gold symbol on the front cover if it has an electronic chip.

- **Germany:** As of May 1, 2006, German temporary or emergency passports will no longer be valid for admission into the United States. German citizens who otherwise meet VWP requirements and present regular, official, or diplomatic passports that comply with VWP requirements may continue to travel to the United States under the VWP.

Canadian, Mexican, and Caribbean Residents

All persons, including citizens of the United States traveling by **air** between the U.S., Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean and Bermuda will now have to present a passport, Merchant Mariner's Document (presented by U.S. citizen merchant mariners traveling on official business) or NEXUS Air Card (NEXUS enrollment is limited to citizens of the United States and Canada, and lawful permanent residents of the United States and Canada). Children will be required to present their own passport.

Exceptions to the passport requirement include, U.S. Lawful Permanent Residents (LPRs), refugees, and asylees who will continue to be able to use their Alien Registration Card (Form I-551), issued by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), or other evidence of permanent resident status or refugee or asylee status to apply for entry into the United States.

The passport requirement does not apply to members of the United States armed forces on active duty. However, spouses and dependents of these military members will be required to present a passport (and valid visa, if applicable) when traveling into the United States under the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI).

WHTI will not affect travel between the United States and its territories. U.S. citizens traveling directly between the United States, Guam, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Swains Island and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands will continue to be able to use established forms of identification to board flights and for entry.

As early as January 1, 2008, all persons including U.S. citizens traveling between the U.S. and Canada,

Mexico, the Caribbean, and Bermuda **by land or sea** (including ferries), could be required to present a valid passport or other documents as determined by DHS in a forthcoming rule. While recent legislative changes permit a later deadline, the Department of State and DHS are working to meet all requirements as soon as possible. Ample advance notice will be provided to enable the public to obtain acceptable documents for land/sea entries to the United States.

Students and Exchange Visitors

Before leaving your country:

- Confirm that your passport and nonimmigrant visa are still valid for entry into the United States. The passport should be valid for at least six months beyond the date of your expected stay.
- Check to see that your visa accurately reflects your correct visa classification.
- If the visa states the name of the institution you will attend or identifies the exchange program in which you are participating, verify that this information is accurate as well.
- When you receive your visa, the consular officer will seal your immigration documents in an envelope and attach it to your passport. Do not open this envelope! The CBP officer at the U.S. port of entry will open it.

If your review indicates any discrepancies or potential problems, visit the U.S. embassy or consulate to obtain a new visa.

When you travel as a student, you should carry some specific documents with you, including:

- Passport (including attached envelope of immigration documents) with nonimmigrant visa.
- SEVIS Form I-20AB, I-20MN, DS-2019.

- Visa exempt nationals presenting a SEVIS Form I-20AB, I-20MN or DS-2019 issued on or after September 1, 2004, who are entering the United States for the first time should have a Form I-797, Receipt Notice or Internet Receipt verifying SEVIS fee payment.
- Evidence of financial resources.

You should also carry:

- Evidence of Student/Exchange Visitor status (recent tuition receipts, transcripts).
- Name and contact information for Designated School Official (DSO) or Responsible Officer (RO) at your intended school or program.

Lawful Permanent Residents

Lawful Permanent Residents are NOT required to have a passport. However, lawful permanent residents must provide one of the following valid, unexpired documents:

- I-551, Permanent Resident Card (“Green Card”);
- Machine-Readable Immigrant Visa endorsed with a CBP Admission Stamp;
- ADIT or I-551 stamp contained in a passport or on Form I-94;
- Valid Reentry Permit;
- Valid Refugee Travel Document; or
- Unexpired Immigrant Visa.

How do you get a visa?

Fill out the appropriate visa application form available on the Department of State Web site at <http://travel.state.gov>. (You must apply for a visa unless eligible to enter under the Visa Waiver Program).

- Contact the U.S. embassy in your home country and make an appointment for the visa interview.

- Take to the interview the visa application, valid passport, a photograph, supporting documentation and a receipt showing that the application fee has been paid. (If you are requesting a student visa, show a receipt for school's fee payment (Form I-797 or the SEVIS I-901).
- As part of the interview process an inkless finger scan of both the right and left hands is taken for security reasons.
- You will be told at the end of the interview process whether or not your visa has been approved. For more information on how to get a visa, go to <http://travel.state.gov>.

Navigating Passenger Processing

Passenger Processing Checklist

- ___ Obtain travel documents before leaving your home country.
- ___ If entering by air or sea, obtain CBP Forms I-94 or I-94W and a CBP Declaration (CBP Form 6059B), on board the airplane or ship.

Note: Be sure to fill out the top and bottom of the CBP Form I-94 and top, bottom and back of the CBP Form I-94W.

- ___ Arrive into the United States and go to the primary passenger processing area.
- ___ Pick up your baggage at the baggage carousel.
- ___ Proceed through CBP checkpoint and show your declaration to the CBP officer (baggage may be examined).
- ___ Go to secondary area, if requested by a CBP officer.
- ___ Pay duty, if applicable.
- ___ Depart airport or connect to your next flight (See information under Connecting Flights on page 13).

Pre-Arrival to the United States

While en-route in preparation for arrival, fill out the CBP Form I-94 or CBP Form I-94W, if required. Each individual in possession of a nonimmigrant visa is required to fill out a Form I-94 or, if traveling under the Visa Waiver Program, each individual is required to complete and sign Form I-94W. This form has two perforated sections.

- The top of the form is your arrival record. A CBP officer will collect this from you when you arrive.
- The bottom of the form is a departure record which must be returned upon exiting the United States in accordance with the direction on the back of this portion.

Next, fill out and sign your CBP Declaration Form. A CBP Declaration, CBP Form 6059B, is required for each person or family group. Don't forget to declare:

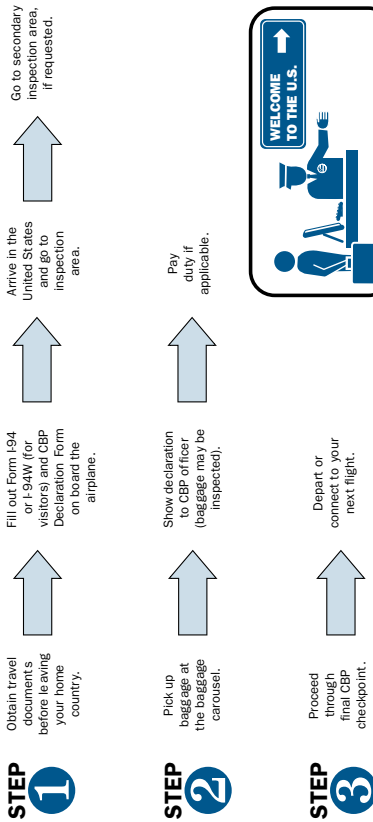
- Items you bought in duty-free shops, on the ship, or on the plane. Duty-free items are only duty free in the country you bought them in. You may have to pay duty on them when you arrive in the United States.
- Items you are bringing for someone else.
- Items you intend to sell or use in your business.
- Food, both processed and unprocessed.

You must state on the CBP Declaration, in U.S. currency, what you actually paid for each item. The price must include all taxes. If you don't know for sure, estimate. Here are some other helpful tips on declarations:

- As a non-resident, you are allowed up to \$100 worth of merchandise, free of duty and internal revenue tax, as gifts for other people.
- Family members may not group their gift exemptions.
- Do not gift-wrap your articles because they must be available for CBP examination and may be opened.
- Remember, all plant material and food items must be declared whether they are processed or not.

The CBP Inspection Process*

As easy as 1-2-3...



*The inspection process may vary by location.



U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Arrival

With completed entry forms and travel documents in hand, go to the CBP processing area and select the appropriate line (U.S. Citizen/Resident, Crew, Visitors, etc.) as established at the port of entry. Please do not use cameras or cell phone cameras in the CBP processing areas. When you get to the primary passenger processing booth, a CBP officer will:

- Review your documents.
- Run your passport through an electronic reader.
- Scan your fingerprints and take a digital photograph to verify your identity for US-VISIT applicants.
- Ask you questions regarding your trip.
- Ask you if you have anything to declare.

If the CBP officer has any concerns about your travel, your documents, other concerns or if you are selected for random secondary processing, the CBP officer will direct you to CBP Secondary Area. The CBP officer at initial passenger processing may also tell you to retrieve your luggage and then report to secondary for baggage inspection. In secondary, you may be interviewed further to determine whether you are admissible to the United States.

Baggage Claim

At the baggage claim carousel, pick up your baggage and proceed to the CBP checkpoint where a CBP officer will review your CBP Declaration, Form 6059B, and either ask you additional questions; send you to the cashier to pay your duty; or, allow you to proceed out of the terminal or to your connecting flight. A CBP officer may inspect the items you are bringing into the country. For example, your baggage may be reviewed for agricultural products that are not allowed into the country.

Your CBP processing may include a personal search. If so, there are a few things you need to know.

- You should be treated in a courteous, professional and dignified manner.
- You may not be searched on any discriminatory basis (e.g. race, gender, religion, ethnic background). A search based on consideration of citizenship or travel itinerary that includes a narcotics source or transit country is not discriminatory.
- You will receive an explanation of the examination process as it occurs. You will have the opportunity to speak with a CBP supervisor.
- Usually, you can request that CBP notify someone of your delay if you are detained more than two hours after the personal search has begun.
- If you feel you have not been treated in a courteous manner, you may request to speak to a CBP supervisor.

Connecting Flights

Since CBP processing must be completed at the first port of entry, many travelers must complete all arrival processing and then immediately proceed to a connecting flight. When the international arriving passenger completes the passenger processing and exits the final CBP checkpoint, major ports of entry provide the capability to immediately re-check the travelers luggage, sending it through the Transportation Security Administration (TSA)-required X-ray screening process. You will proceed directly to a TSA checkpoint before proceeding to the departure gate.

Returning Home

Transportation Security Administration

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) is a component of the Department of Homeland Security and is responsible for security of the nation's transportation systems.

Following these tips will help you reduce your wait time at the security checkpoint:

- Do not pack or bring prohibited items to the airport. Learn about permitted and prohibited items, including liquids, gels and aerosols, on the TSA web site, www.tsa.gov.
- Liquids, gels and aerosols as carry-ons must follow the 3-1-1 guidelines: 3-ounce (100 ml) or smaller containers, placed in a 1 quart (1 liter) size, clear zip-top bag, 1 bag per passenger placed in a plastic bin for screening.
- Put jewelry, cash, laptop computers, and other valuables in your carry-on baggage. Tape your business card or identifying information to your laptop.
- Place the following items in your carry-on baggage or be prepared to remove them as you enter the security checkpoint: mobile phones, keys, loose change, money clips, personal digital assistants, large amounts of jewelry, metal hair decorations, and large belt buckles.
- Put all undeveloped film and cameras with film in your carry-on baggage. Checked baggage screening equipment may damage undeveloped film.
- Be aware of what you wear to the airport: clothing, jewelry and accessories that contain metal may set off the alarm on the metal detector.
- You will need to take your shoes off and put them through the X-ray machine.
- If you wish to lock your baggage, use a TSA-recognized lock. See www.tsa.gov for more information.

- Do not pack wrapped gifts and do not bring wrapped gifts to the checkpoint, as TSA may have to unwrap packages for security reasons. Wrap on arrival or ship your gifts prior to your departure.
- Take your laptop and video cameras with cassettes out of their cases and place them in a bin provided at the checkpoint to go through the X-ray machine separately.
- Remove all outer coats, suit coats, jackets and blazers and place them on the belt to be X-rayed.
- Do not overstuff checked baggage. If TSA screeners must open your checked bag for inspection, they must be able to easily close your bag afterwards.

At the airport, keep your airline boarding pass available until exiting the security checkpoint. The absence of proper identification will result in additional screening and delays.

Outbound CBP Inspections

A CBP officer may select you for an interview when you leave the United States. This does not necessarily mean that you are suspected of any wrongdoing. CBP officers choose passengers for an interview for a variety of reasons. In addition to enforcing currency requirements, CBP enforces hundreds of laws for other federal agencies. U.S. Customs and Border Protection is charged with ensuring that all goods and persons leaving the United States comply with all U.S. laws and regulations.

Don't forget to turn in your forms I-94 or I-94W before you leave the country. Failure to do so will cause you to appear in CBP records as an overstay. Being identified as an overstay means that you may be denied future entry into the United States. If you failed to turn in your forms I-94 or I-94W, please mail it, along with any documentation that proves you left the United States, to:

ACS Inc.
1084 South Laurel Road
London, Kentucky 40744

Keep a copy of what you send to ACS Inc. and carry it with you the next time you come to the United States in case the CBP officer has any questions about your eligibility to enter.

US-VISIT Exit Procedures

Visitors will need to verify their departure from the United States by using an automated exit station or kiosk at specific locations. The US-VISIT exit procedures involve collecting digital finger scans and a photograph from departing international visitors. Trained attendants are available to provide assistance to visitors using the US-VISIT exit procedures at airports and seaports.

We hope you have a safe and pleasant trip here. If you prepare ahead of time and know what to expect when you arrive, you should have a quick and easy time clearing the inspection process. However, if you are not satisfied, you should know that there are options available to you to obtain redress.

For information on US-VISIT kiosk locations please see page 27.

Customer Service

If you have a concern or need help understanding CBP regulations and procedures, ask to speak with the passenger service representative or a CBP supervisor.

If you have any questions about CBP procedures, requirements or policies regarding travelers:

- Write to the:
Customer Service Center
Office of Public Affairs
U.S. Customs and Border Protection
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20229
- Call 1.877.CBP.5511 (1.877.227.5511).
- Log on to CBP's web site at: www.cbp.gov.

If you believe you are the victim of serious or criminal misconduct by a CBP officer, contact the Joint Intake Center:

- Call 1.877.2INTAKE (1.877.246.8253).
- Email to Joint.Intake@dhs.gov.
- Fax 202.344.3390.
- Write to:
U.S. Customs and Border Protection
P.O. Box 14475
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20044

Helpful Tips

Prohibited and Restricted Items

The products CBP needs to prevent from entering the United States are those that would injure community health, public safety, American workers, children, or domestic plant and animal life.

Before you leave for your trip to the United States, you might want to contact the local CBP office about the items you plan to bring with you to be sure they're not prohibited or restricted.

Absinthe

The importation of absinthe and any other liquors or liqueurs that contain *Artemisia absinthium* (or wormwood as it is commonly called) is prohibited.

Automobiles

Cars brought into the United States temporarily by nonresidents (for less than one year) are exempt from restrictions. However, it is illegal to bring a vehicle into the United States and sell it if it was not formally entered on a CBP Form 7501.

Biologicals

You may need a U.S. Department of Agriculture permit to import biological specimens including bacterial cultures, culture medium, excretions, fungi, arthropods, mollusks, tissues of livestock, birds, plants, viruses, and vectors for research, biological or pharmaceutical use.

Cultural Artifacts and Property

Most countries have laws that protect their cultural property: art/artifacts/antiquities; archaeological and ethnological material are also terms that are used. Such laws include export controls and/or national ownership of cultural property. Even if purchased from a business in the country of origin or in another country, legal ownership of such artifacts may be in question if brought into the United States. Therefore, although they do not necessarily confer ownership, you must have documents such as export permits and receipts when bringing such items into the United States.

While foreign laws may not be enforceable in the United States, they can cause certain U.S. laws to be invoked. For example, under the U.S. National Stolen

Property Act, one cannot have legal title to art/artifacts/antiquities that were stolen—no matter how many times such items may have changed hands.

As additional U.S. import restrictions may be imposed in response to requests from other countries, we recommend prospective purchasers visit the State Department cultural property web site (<http://exchanges.state.gov/culprop/>).

Caviar

You are limited to bringing in no more than 250 grams of caviar. If you bring in more than that, ALL of the caviar will be seized.

Cuban Cigars

NO products of Cuba can be brought into the United States. That includes Cuban cigars that have been purchased in a country other than Cuba such as Canada or England.

Dog and Cat Fur

It is illegal in the United States to import, export, distribute, transport, manufacture, or sell products containing dog or cat fur in the United States.

Drug Paraphernalia

It is illegal to bring drug paraphernalia into the United States unless they have been prescribed for authentic medical conditions such as diabetes. Drug paraphernalia is any equipment or product designed for use in manufacturing, compounding, injecting, ingesting, or inhaling a controlled substance, the possession of which is unlawful.

Firearms

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) regulates and restricts firearms and ammunition and approves all import transactions involving weapons and ammunition. U.S. visitors (with a few exceptions) must obtain an import permit (ATF Form 6) from the ATF to temporarily import firearms and ammunition for hunting or other lawful sporting purposes.

Fish and Wildlife

Certain fish and wildlife, and products made from them, are subject to import and export restrictions, prohibitions, permits or certificates, and quarantine requirements. We recommend that you contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service before you depart if you plan to bring any of the following into the U.S.:

- Wild birds, land or marine mammals, reptiles, fish, shellfish, mollusks, or invertebrates.
- Any part or product of the above, such as skins, tusks, bone, feathers, or eggs.
- Products or articles manufactured from endangered wildlife or fish. Endangered species, and products made from them, generally may not be imported. You will need a permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to import virtually all types of ivory. Some states have fish and wildlife laws and regulations that are stricter than federal laws and regulations. If you are traveling to such a state, be aware that the stricter state laws and regulations have priority. Similarly, the federal government does not allow you to import wild animals into the United States that were taken, killed, sold, possessed, or exported from another country if any of these acts violated foreign laws.

Food Products (Prepared)

Many prepared foods are admissible. You may bring bakery items and certain cheeses into the United States. As a general rule, condiments, vinegars, oils, packaged spices, honey, coffee and tea are admissible. Because rice can often harbor insects, it is best to avoid bringing it into the United States, particularly if it is in loose burlap packaging. Foods in packaging that appears unsafe or contaminated may be refused entry.

Fruits and Vegetables

It is best not to bring fresh fruits or vegetables into the United States.

Game and Hunting Trophies

If you plan to import game or a hunting trophy, please contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service before you leave. Contact information can be found on page 26 of this brochure.

Gold

Gold coins, medals, and bullion, formerly prohibited, may be brought into the United States. However, under regulations administered by the Office of Foreign Assets Control, such items originating in or brought from Cuba, Iran, Iraq, Libya, Serbia, and Sudan are prohibited entry. Copies of gold coins are prohibited if not properly marked by country of issuance.

Meats, Livestock, and Poultry

You may not import fresh, dried, or canned meats or meat products from most foreign countries into the United States. Also, you may not import food products that have been prepared with meat. Commercially canned meat is allowed if the CBP officer can determine from the label that the meat was cooked in the can after it was sealed to make it shelf-stable without refrigeration. The regulations on importing meat and meat products change frequently because they are based on disease outbreaks in different areas of the world.

If you have questions about whether particular agricultural products can be brought into the United States, contact APHIS' Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ). Look in the phone book under "U.S. Department of Agriculture" for the nearest PPQ office, or contact the central office at:

USDA-APHIS-PPQ
Permit Unit
4700 River Road, Unit 136
Riverdale, MD 20737
Telephone 301.734.8645
Fax 301.734.5786

In addition, you can visit their Web site at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov>.

Medication

Rule of thumb: Bring only the medicines you will need, no more, no less. If you need medicines that contain potentially addictive drugs or narcotics (e.g., some cough medicines, tranquilizers, sleeping pills, antidepressants, or stimulants), do the following:

- Declare all drugs, medicines, and similar products to the appropriate CBP official.
- Carry drugs, medicines and similar products in their original containers.
- Carry only the quantity of such substances that a person with that condition (e.g., chronic pain) would normally carry for his/her personal use.

Please note that only medications that can be legally prescribed in the United States may be imported for personal use. Be aware that possession of certain substances may also violate state laws. (As a general rule, the Food and Drug Administration does not allow the importation of prescription drugs that were purchased outside the United States. Please see their Web site at www.fda.gov for information about the enforcement policy for personal use quantities.)

For specifics about importing controlled substances, call 301.827.4570 or toll free at 1.888.INFO FDA (1.888.463.6332). For additional information about traveling with medication, write to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Division of Drug Information, HFD-240, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857.

Merchandise from Embargoed Countries

Generally, you may not bring in any goods from the following: Cuba, Burma (Myanmar), Angola, Liberia, Sierra Leone (diamonds only), and Sudan. The Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) of the U.S. Department of Treasury enforces this ban. If you want to bring in merchandise from any of these countries, you will first need a specific license from the Office of Foreign Assets Control. Such licenses are rarely granted. You can write to the Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, Washington, DC 20220, or visit

their Web site at www.treas.gov/ofac.

Please note:

- The embargo on Iranian goods has been revised to allow the importation of foodstuffs intended for human consumption, carpets and other textile floor coverings. You may only bring in \$100 worth of goods other than carpets, food and books.
- Only certain Iraqi cultural property or other items of archaeological, historical/cultural, rare scientific and religious importance illegally removed from the Iraq National Museum, the National Library and other locations in Iraq is prohibited.
- There is a general lifting of the embargo on Serbia and Montenegro.
- The importation of merchandise from North Korea requires a letter of approval issued by the OFAC.

You may, however, bring in information and informational materials—books, magazines, films, posters, photographs, microfilms, tapes, CDs, records, works of art, etc. Blank tapes and blank CDs are not informational materials.

Money and Other Monetary Instruments

You may bring into or take out of the country, including by mail, as much money as you wish. However, if it is more than \$10,000, you will need to report it to CBP. Families traveling together should declare currency if the total combined amount is over \$10,000. Ask the CBP officer for the Currency Reporting Form (FinCen 105). The penalties for non-compliance can be severe. “Money” means monetary instruments and includes U.S. or foreign coins currently in circulation, currency, travelers’ checks in any form, money orders, and negotiable instruments or investment securities in bearer form.

This reporting requirement does not impose any restriction or payment of duty or fees.

Be aware that if you have \$10,000 with you and happen to have a couple of quarters in your pocket you are in

violation of the Currency Reporting statute. Better be safe than sorry and fill out the reporting form.

Pets

If you plan to bring your pet to the United States with you, please see the CBP brochure *Pets and Wildlife* at <http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/toolbox/publications/travel/>. (You should also check with state, county, and local authorities, especially Hawaii, to learn if their restrictions and prohibitions on pets are stricter than federal requirements.) Importing animals is closely regulated for public health reasons and also for the well being of the animals. There are restrictions and prohibitions on bringing many species into the United States.

Plants and Seeds

Every plant or plant product, including handicraft items made with straw, must be declared to the CBP officer and must be presented for CBP inspection, no matter how free of pests it appears to be. For information write to USDA-APHIS-PPQ, 4700 River Road, Riverdale, MD 20737; call 301.734.8645 or toll free at 1.877.770.5990; or visit the APHIS Web site at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/permits/plantproducts/index.html>.

Soil

Soil is prohibited entry unless accompanied by an import permit. Soil must be declared and the permit must be verified.

Textiles and Clothing

In general, there is no limit to how much fabric and clothing you can bring into the United States as long as it is for your personal use or as gifts. If you have exceeded your personal exemption, you may have to pay duty on the items. Personal shipments, however, may be subject to limitations on amount if they are in quantities that might be considered commercial. Textiles in any amount can be considered commercial.

Trademarked and Copyrighted Articles

CBP enforces laws relating to the protection of trademarks and copyrights. Articles that infringe a federally registered trademark or copyright or copyright protected by the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works are subject to detention and/or seizure. Articles bearing marks that are counterfeit or inappropriately using a federally registered trademark are subject to seizure and forfeiture. The importation of articles intended for sale or public distribution bearing counterfeit marks may subject an individual to a civil fine if the registered trademark has also been recorded with CBP.

Articles bearing marks that are confusingly similar to a CBP recorded registered trademark, and restricted gray market articles (goods bearing genuine marks not intended for U.S. importation for which CBP granted gray market protection) are subject to detention and seizure. However, travelers arriving in the United States may be permitted an exemption and allowed to import one article of each type, provided that the article is for personal use and is not for sale. This exemption may be granted not more than once every 30 days. If the article imported under the personal exemption provision is sold within one year after the date of importation, the article or its value is subject to forfeiture.

You may also bring in genuine trademarked and copyrighted articles (subject to duties). Products subject to copyright protection most commonly imported include software on CD-ROMs, sound recordings, toys, stuffed animals, clothing with cartoon characters, videotapes, DVDs, music CDs, and books. Products subject to trademark protection most commonly imported include handbags and accessories, and clothing.

Helpful Web sites

Department of Homeland Security

<http://www.dhs.gov>

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

<http://www.cbp.gov>

Transportation Security Administration

<http://www.tsa.gov>

US-VISIT

<http://www.dhs.gov/us-visit>

U.S. Customs and Immigration Services

<http://www.uscis.gov>

- I-551, Permanent Resident Card (“Green Card”)
<http://www.uscis.gov/graphics/services/residency/index.htm>

U.S. State Department

- Passports
http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport_1738.html
- Visas
http://travel.state.gov/visa/visa_1750.html
- Visa Waiver Program
http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/without/without_1990.html

U.S. Department of Agriculture

- Birds
http://www.aphis.usda.gov/subjects/animal_health/index.shtml
- Plants and seeds
<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/permits/plantproducts/index.html>

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

- Permits
<http://www.fws.gov/permits/>

U.S. Food and Drug Administration

<http://www.fda.gov>

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

- Firearms
<http://www.atf.gov/firearms/index.htm>

US-VISIT Locations

Airports

Alaska

Anchorage International Airport
Fairbanks International Airport
Juneau International Airport

Arizona

Phoenix Sky Harbor
International Airport
Tucson International Airport
Yuma International Airport

California

Fresno-Yosemite International Airport
Los Angeles International Airport
Metropolitan Oakland International Airport
Ontario International Airport
Sacramento International Airport
San Diego International Airport
San Francisco International Airport
San Jose International Airport

Colorado

Denver International Airport

Connecticut

Bradley International Airport

Delaware

Delaware Airpark

Florida

Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport

Fort Lauderdale Hollywood International Airport

Key West International Airport

Jacksonville International Airport

Kendall-Tamiami Executive Airport

Key West International Airport

Miami International Airport

Opa Locka Airport

Orlando International Airport

Orlando Sanford International Airport

Palm Beach International Airport

Sarasota-Bradenton International Airport

Southwest Florida International Airport

Tampa International

St. Lucie County International Airport

St. Petersburg-Clearwater International Airport

Tampa International Airport

Guam

Guam International Airport

Hawaii

Honolulu International Airport

Kona International Airport at Keahole

Illinois

Chicago Midway Airport

Chicago O'Hare International Airport

Indiana

Indianapolis International Airport

Louisiana

Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport

Maine

Bangor International Airport

Portland International Airport

Maryland

Andrews Air Force Base

Baltimore-Washington International Airport

Massachusetts

General Edward Lawrence Logan International Airport

Michigan

Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County International Airport

Minnesota

Falls International Airport

Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport

Missouri

Kansas City International Airport

Lambert-St. Louis International Airport

Nevada

McCarran International Airport

Reno/Tahoe International Airport

New Hampshire

Manchester Airport

Pease International Tradeport Airport

New Jersey

Newark International Airport

Teterboro Airport

New Mexico

Albuquerque International Sunport Airport

New York

Albany International Airport

Buffalo Niagara International Airport

John F. Kennedy International Airport

North Carolina

Charlotte Douglas International Airport

Raleigh-Durham International Airport

Wilmington International Airport

Ohio

Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport

Cleveland Hopkins International Airport

Griffing Sandusky Airport
Port Columbus International Airport
Rickenbacker International Airport

Oregon

Portland International Airport

Pennsylvania

Erie International Airport
Philadelphia International Airport
Pittsburgh International Airport

Puerto Rico

Diego Jiménez Torres Airport
Eugenio Maria de Hostos Airport
Isla Grande Airport
Luis Muñoz Marín International Airport
Mercedita Airport
Rafael Hernández Airport

Rhode Island

Theodore Francis Green State Airport

South Carolina

Charleston International Airport
Donaldson Center Airport

Tennessee

Memphis International Airport
Nashville International Airport

Texas

Austin-Bergstrom International Airport
Brownsville/South Padre Island International Airport
Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport
Del Rio International Airport
El Paso International Airport
George Bush Intercontinental/Houston Airport
Laredo International Airport
and Laredo Private Airport
McAllen Miller International Airport
San Antonio International Airport

Utah

Salt Lake City International Airport

Virginia

Norfolk International Airport

Richmond International Airport

Washington Dulles International Airport

Virgin Islands

Cyril E. King Airport

Henry E. Rohlsen International Airport

Washington

Bellingham International Airport

Kenmore Air Harbor

King County International Airport

Seattle-Tacoma International Airport

Spokane International Airport

Wisconsin

General Mitchell International Airport

Non-U.S. Airports (US-VISIT Locations)

Aruba

Aeropuerto Internacional Reina Beatrix

Bahamas

Freeport International Airport

Nassau International Airport

Bermuda

Bermuda International Airport

Ireland

Dublin International Airport

Shannon International Airport

Canada

Calgary International Airport

Edmonton International Airport

Halifax International Airport

Montreal-Pierre-Elliott-Trudeau International Airport

Ottawa International Airport

Toronto Lester B Pearson International Airport

Vancouver International Airport

Victoria International Airport

Winnipeg International Airport

Seaports (US-VISIT Locations)

California

Long Beach Carnival Cruise
San Pedro World Cruise Center

Florida

Jacksonville
Miami, RCI
Port Canaveral
Port Everglades
Tampa, Terminal 3
Tampa, Terminal 7
West Palm Seaport

Louisiana

Erato Street Cruise Terminal

New York

New York City Cruise Terminal

Puerto Rico

San Juan Pan-American

Texas

Galveston RCI

Washington

Seattle Seaport
Seattle, Birth 30, Cruise Terminal

Canada

Vancouver, Ballantyne Pier
Vancouver, Canada Place
Victoria, Pre Inspection

Land Border Ports (US-VISIT Locations)

Alaska

Alcan
Dalton's Cache
Skagway

Arizona

Douglas
Lukeville
Nogales East, Nogales
Nogales West, Nogales
San Luis
Sasabe
Morley Gate, Nogales
Naco

California

Andrade
Calexico East-Imperial Valley, Calexico
Calexico West, Calexico
Otay Mesa, San Diego
San Ysidro, San Diego
Tecate

Maine

Bar Harbor Ferry, Bar Harbor
Bridgewater
Calais-Ferry Point Bridge, Calais
Coburn Gore
Eastport
Fort Fairfield
Fort Kent
Hamlin
Houlton
Jackman
Limestone
Lubec
Madawaska
Van Buren
Vanceboro

Michigan

Detroit Ambassador Bridge, Detroit
Detroit-Windsor Tunnel, Detroit
Port Huron – Blue Water Bridge, Port Huron
Sault Ste. Marie

Algonac Ferry, Algonac
Marine City Ferry, Marine City

Minnesota

Baudette
Ely
Grand Portage
International Falls
Lancaster
Roseau
Warroad

Montana

Chief Mountain
Del Bonita
Morgan, Loring
Opheim
Piegan, Babb
Raymond
Roosville
Scobey
Sweetgrass
Turner
Willow Creek, Turner
Wild Horse, Havre
Whitetail

New Hampshire

Pittsburg

New Mexico

Antelope Wells
Columbus
Santa Teresa

New York

Cape Vincent Ferry, Cape Vincent
Champlain Amtrak Station, Champlain
Champlain
Chateaugay
Fort Covington
Heart Island Ferry, Alexandria Bay
Massena, Rooseveltown
Mooers
Niagara (Lewiston-Queenston, Whirlpool and
Rainbow Bridges)

Niagara Falls Amtrak Station, Niagara Falls
Ogdensburg
Overton Corners, Champlain
Peace Bridge, Buffalo
Rochester Ferry, Rochester
Rouses Point
Thousand Islands Bridge, Alexandria Bay
Trout River

Texas

Amistad Dam, Amistad Village
Bridge of the Americas/Cordova Bridge, El Paso
Brownsville/Matamoros Bridge, Brownsville
Columbia Solidarity Bridge, Laredo
Convent Street (or Gateway to the Americas
International Bridge), Laredo
Del Rio International Bridge, Del Rio
Eagle Pass Bridge I, Eagle Pass
Eagle Pass Bridge II, Eagle Pass
Fabens
Fort Hancock
Gateway International Bridge, Brownsville
Hidalgo, McAllen
Lincoln-Juarez Bridge, Laredo
Los Indios
Los Tomates/Veterans International Bridge, Brownsville
Paso del Norte Bridge, El Paso
Pharr
Presidio
Progreso
Rio Grande City
Roma
World Trade Bridge, Laredo
Ysleta-Zaragoza Bridge, El Paso

Vermont

Alburg Springs
Alburg
Beebe Plain
Beecher Falls
Canaan
Derby Line
East Richford
Highgate Springs
Morses Line
North Troy

Norton
Richford
Richford/Pinnacle, Richford
West Berkshire

Washington

Blaine-Pacific Highway, Blaine
Blaine-Peace Arch, Blaine
Boundary
Danville
Ferry
Frontier
Laurier
Lynden
Metaline Falls
Nighthawk
Oroville
Point Roberts
Sumas

Canada

Vancouver Amtrak Station, Vancouver

NEXUS Locations

Land Border Ports

British Columbia, Washington

- Pacific Highway, Blaine
- Douglas, Peace Arch
- Boundary Bay, Point Roberts

Southern Ontario, Michigan, New York

- The Bluewater Bridge in Sarnia, Port Huron
- The Ambassador Bridge in Windsor, Detroit
- The Peace Bridge in Fort Erie, Buffalo
- The International Tunnel in Windsor, Detroit
- The Rainbow Bridge in Niagara Falls, Ontario, Niagara Falls, New York
- The Whirlpool Bridge in Niagara Falls, Ontario, Niagara Falls, New York

Quebec, New York, Vermont

- Lacolle, Quebec, Champlain, New York
- St. Armand-Philipsburg, Quebec, Highgate Springs, Vermont

Marine (NEXUS Locations)

- Report by telephone in the Seattle & Great Lakes regions.

For local reporting telephone numbers please see http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/travel/pleasure_boats

Airport (NEXUS Locations)

- Vancouver International Airport
- Toronto Pearson International Airport
- Montréal-Pierre Elliott Trudeau International Airport

NEXUS Airport Locations Coming Soon:

- Ottawa Macdonald-Cartier International Airport
- Edmonton International Airport
- Calgary International Airport
- Winnipeg International Airport
- Halifax International Airport

U.S. Customs and Border Protection
Washington, D.C. 20229

To report suspicious activity call
1-800 BE ALERT

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