



Fact sheet / Document d'information

United States' Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative

The Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI) is a U.S. initiative that will require all travellers, including Canadians, to carry a valid passport or other appropriate secure document when travelling to the United States from within the western hemisphere. The WHTI will be implemented in two phases.

The first phase will only affect air travel to the United States. As of January 23, 2007, Canadians will require a valid passport to travel to the United States by air. The first phase does not affect travel by land or sea.

The second phase will include travel to the United States by all modes, including land and sea. The United States has yet to release the rules for land and sea travel; however, a passport will be valid for all modes of travel under the WHTI. The U.S. government has approved a potential delay of the full implementation of the WHTI to June 1, 2009; however, should the Secretaries of State and Homeland Security be able to certify that certain criteria are met, the WHTI could be fully implemented earlier.

Canadians can prepare for WHTI by:

- Applying for a passport;
- Keeping their passports up-to-date; and
- Carrying their passports with them when travelling.

A complete checklist identifying the steps in the passport application process, as well as the location of Passport Canada offices and Canada Post / Service Canada receiving agents, is available at www.passportcanada.gc.ca or by calling toll-free 1 800 567-6868.

Canada's New Government continues to work vigorously in keeping its borders open to legitimate trade and travel but closed to terrorists, criminals and other threats to our health and safety.

For more information, visit the Canada Border Services Agency's Web site at www.cbsa.gc.ca or call the Border Information Service toll-free line at 1-800-461-9999.