

CBP Reminds Visa Waiver Travelers to Complete Online Authorization Form
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U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) issued a reminder to U.S.-bound travelers from Visa Waiver Program (VWP) countries of the ESTA requirement. ESTA is an electronic travel authorization that all citizens of VWP countries must obtain prior to boarding a carrier to travel by air or sea to the United States under the VWP. The requirement does not affect U.S. citizens returning from overseas or citizens of VWP countries traveling on a valid U.S. visa.

Beginning January 20, 2010, CBP will initiate a 60-day transition to enforced ESTA compliance for air carriers; VWP travelers without an approved ESTA may not be allowed to board a U.S.-bound plane. ESTA applications may be submitted at any time prior to travel, and once approved, generally will be valid for up to two years or until the applicant's passport expires, whichever comes first. Authorizations are valid for multiple entries into the U.S. The Department of Homeland Security recommends that ESTA applications be submitted as soon as an applicant begins making travel plans.

VWP travelers are required to log onto the ESTA Web site and complete an online application. The web-based system prompts applicants to answer basic biographic and eligibility questions typically requested on a paper I-94W form. ESTA is expected to completely replace the paper I-94W in the coming months. A third party, such as a relative, a friend, or a travel agent, may submit an application on behalf of a VWP traveler.

You can access the ESTA web site by clicking [here](#). We will provide updates on [our website](#) as they become available.

HELPFUL LINKS

To access some helpful immigration related web sites, please click [here](#).

To schedule a consultation, please send an email info@bashyamspiro.com or click [here](#).

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