

VISA WAIVER PROGRAM

Passport Requirements

JULY 1, 2009 VWP EMERGENCY AND TEMPORARY PASSPORTS MUST BE E-PASSPORTS

Effective **July 1, 2009**, all emergency or temporary passports presented for application to the United States under the Visa Waiver Program (VWP), including transit through the United States, must be electronic passports (e-Passports). An e-Passport contains an integrated chip that stores biographic data, a digitized photograph, and other information about the bearer, and is distinguished by a gold-colored symbol on the passport's front cover.



VWP applicants arriving in the United States with a non-compliant passport may be required to undergo further processing and/or denied admission. U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) may exercise discretion at the ports of entry in cases of medical or other emergency travel.

➤ **Individuals traveling to or transiting the United States under the VWP must present a DHS-approved passport as indicated below.**

➤ **VWP applicants who are citizens of the following countries must present electronic Passports (e-Passport - see above for description):**

Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, the Republic of Korea, and the Slovak Republic.

➤ **The passport requirements for VWP applicants who are nationals of these 27 countries:**

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

- October 26, 2005 – Passports issued prior to this date must be machine-readable.
- October 26, 2005 – Passports issued on or after this date must have a digital photo.
 - E-Passports are acceptable for this purpose.
- October 26, 2006 – Passports issued on or after this date must be an e-Passport.

An alternative to these requirements is to apply for a nonimmigrant visa at a U.S. embassy or consulate. For more information visit the Department of State website: www.travel.state.gov/visa_1750.html.

*The kinderreisepass (German child's passport) is valid for visa-free travel only if issued prior to October 26, 2006. Please see www.travel.state.gov for further requirements.