

CWT info

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

With the present letter let us inform you that the Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA), implemented by the U.S. government early 2009 for all passengers travelling to the United States under the Visa Waiver Program, was more strictly enforced by airlines starting January 20th 2010.

Passengers who have not successfully registered for travel authorization face potential consequences including denied boarding, refusal of admission into the United States, referral to the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) upon arrival for a secondary inspection, or a requirement to submit an application and pay the fee to waive the requirement to enter the United States.

Information collected via the ESTA application includes the traveller's name, date of birth, passport data, country of residence, U.S. visiting address and more. Free registration and further information is available at <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov>.

Travellers holding passports from countries participating in the Visa Waiver Program are encouraged to apply for travel authorization 72 hours prior to entering the United States by air or sea. Responses are generally sent minutes later, but may in some instances take up to 72 hours. Once complete, the authorization is generally valid for two years and allows multiple visits without the need to reapply.

Countries in the Visa Waiver Program include: Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brunei, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, San Marino, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom.

Those passengers in possession of a U.S. visa or green card are not travelling under the visa waiver program and, therefore, do not need to register for travel authorization.

ESTA is currently free of charge. However a fee of \$10 for each application for ESTA will be introduced mid-year at the earliest and will be payable by credit card. The I-94W form, which passengers are currently required to present to CBP on entry, will eventually be phased out. Arrival and departure records will be created based on information gleaned from the Advance Passenger Information System and ESTA.

Additional information is available at the CBP website: <http://www.cbp.gov/esta>.

Best regards,
Carlson Wagonlit Travel team