

CBP Will Require Government Issued ID and Proof of Citizenship to Enter the U.S. at Land and Sea Ports Beginning January 31, 2008

Last week, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) issued a Port Information Notice (PIN) and information flyer to remind travelers of new documentation requirements for entry into the United States at land and sea ports from within the Western Hemisphere. As of **January 31, 2008**, all adult travelers, including commercial drivers, vessel masters, and crewman will be required to present proof of citizenship, such as birth certificate or passport, and proof of identity by presenting a government issued ID, such as a driver's license. An excerpt from the PIN is reprinted below, and the information flyer provided by CBP to further detail the documentary requirements is available on the NGJ website at http://www.ngjensen.com/news/WHTI_tear_sheet.pdf.

LAND AND SEA DOCUMENT REQUIREMENTS STARTING JANUARY 31, 2008

Beginning January 31, 2008, verbal claims of citizenship and identity alone will not be sufficient to establish identity and citizenship for entry into the United States. U.S. and Canadian citizens 19 years and older who enter the U.S. at land and sea ports of entry from within the Western Hemisphere will need to present government issued photo ID, such as a driver's license as proof of identity, along with proof of citizenship, such as a birth certificate or naturalization certificate, or a passport. Children age 18 and under will be able to enter with proof of citizenship.

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CBP provides that this change is a necessary step to prepare travelers and ease the transition to the future requirements of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI), which proposes to establish documentation requirements for travelers entering the U.S. who were previously exempt, including citizens of the U.S., Canada and Bermuda.

Additional information about the new documentation requirements and the implementation of the WHTI is available on the CBP website at: http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/newsroom/news_releases/archives/2007_news_releases/122007/12032007_4.xml.

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