



## Important Information for Visa Waiver Program Travelers

Following is important information regarding recent changes to U.S. law regarding visa and entry policy.

Beginning April 1, 2016, VWP nationals who wish to travel to/through the U.S. under the Visa Waiver Program must have a valid electronic passport. Electronic passports have the symbol  on their cover. This rule applies even to those who possess a valid ESTA (Electronic System for Travel Authorization). VWP nationals who do not have an electronic passport must either obtain an electronic passport and a new ESTA, or obtain a visa.

Beginning January 21, 2016, the following travelers who have traditionally been eligible to travel and enter the United States through the Visa Waiver Program (VWP) will now need to obtain a U.S. visitor visa:

- Citizens of VWP countries who have traveled to or been present in Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria or Yemen on or after March 1, 2011.
- Dual citizens of VWP countries who are also nationals of Iran, Iraq, Sudan or Syria.

Though these citizens are no longer eligible to travel under the VWP (even if they had previously been granted Electronic System for Travel Authorizations approval), they are still welcome to enter the United States with a valid visitor visa, which can be obtained using the regular process at U.S. Embassies or Consulates. Thanks to a strong partnership with our government, we are happy to extend assistance with this visa process.

For individuals who require a U.S. visa for urgent business or medical travel to the United States, U.S. embassies and consulates stand ready to process applications on an expedited basis. Visa information can be found at [travel.state.gov](http://travel.state.gov).

Although most VWP travelers will not be affected by these changes, those with current ESTA approvals are encouraged to check their status prior to travel on the U.S. Customs and Border Protection website at [esta.cbp.dhs.gov](http://esta.cbp.dhs.gov).