

U.S. Border Patrol Authorities

Section 287 and Section 235 of the Immigration and Nationality Act authorizes U.S. Border Patrol agents to board and search vehicles or conveyances for aliens within a reasonable distance from the U.S. border.

- These statutory authorities also provide agents with certain interrogation and arrest powers.

8 U.S.C. 1324 Federal law prohibits smuggling and transporting illegal aliens. Violators may face a sentence up to 10 years of imprisonment.



To report illegal activity select the appropriate option:

- Involving illegal aliens already living and working in the United States or for workplace violations contact Immigration and Customs Enforcement at 1-866-DHS-2ICE.
- Involving suspicious activity related to goods or people crossing the U.S. border contact Customs and Border Protection at 1-800-BE-ALERT or visit <https://help.cbp.gov/>
- Or contact the local Border Patrol station at <http://www.cbp.gov/contact> and choose the appropriate sector/station link to report illegal/suspicious activity in your area.



U.S. Customs and Border Protection

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Publication #: 0687-0518



U.S. Border Patrol Transportation Check Operations



U.S. Customs and Border Protection

U.S. Border Patrol Transportation Check Operations

The U.S. Border Patrol, a component of U.S. Customs and Border Protection within the Department of Homeland Security, plays a critical role in securing our Nation's borders between the ports of entry from: illegal immigration, illicit smuggling of humans, contraband, and terrorism.

Transportation check operations are conducted at a variety of public transportation access points including airports, seaports, rail, and bus stations.

Transportation check operations provide an additional enforcement posture as well as a layered enforcement approach to border security.

- Illegal aliens and smugglers may use public transportation to depart the immediate border area, to evade arrest/detection, and travel into the interior of the U.S.



Additional Information



During transportation checks, Border Patrol agents engage in brief conversations with members of the traveling public.

Typically, agents will ask travelers questions about immigration status, travel plans, and luggage.

To facilitate the transportation check, please be prepared to answer these questions truthfully.

If asked for ID or immigration documents, please have them available for the agent to inspect.

In some instances, an agent may also request consent to search a traveler or their luggage.

To protect your privacy, or for your safety or other reasons, the agent may ask you to exit the conveyance.

If an agent suspects an individual is violating federal law, the agent may detain that individual for additional questioning.

Additional Information Continued

Transportation hubs are increasingly used by smuggling organizations (alien smuggling and drug trafficking) to move smuggled people, narcotics, and contraband to destinations throughout the country.

Alien smuggling, including transporting undocumented aliens further into the United States, is a crime punishable by a fine and/or imprisonment.

If you witness a crime, including smuggling activity, contact local, state, or federal law enforcement.

