

Frequently Asked Questions

CBP Private and Non-scheduled General Aviation Aircraft Preclearance Programs at ARUBA AIRPORT

Q: When did U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) begin General Aviation preclearance at Aruba Airport?

A: On May 22, 2008, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) the Aruban government amended the 1994 Preclearance Agreement to include a provision for the expansion to preclearance service of General Aviation (GA) aircraft. The commencement of preclearance GA operations at Aruba will begin in early 2014.

Q: What is a preclearance inspection?

A: A preclearance inspection is essentially the same inspection a traveler would experience at a U.S. port of entry, but is completed on foreign soil. CBP operates 15 preclearance airport locations in Canada, Aruba, Bermuda, the Bahamas, Ireland and Abu Dhabi. Private aircraft preclearance processing is only available at the Shannon, Ireland and Oranjestad, Aruba locations.

Q: What is preclearance of private aircraft?

A: CBP expanded its operations beyond preclearing only scheduled commercial travelers in Aruba, to include the processing of flights that qualify as private aircraft under 19 CFR 122.1(h). Preclearance of a private aircraft means that the full inspection for documents, baggage and agriculture items are complete prior to the aircraft's departure. *All laws and regulations for entering the United States apply.*

Q: How does this new program apply to chartered aircraft?

A: The majority of conditions established for the private aircraft also apply to non-scheduled commercial flights. Preclearance of chartered aircraft must be requested at least 24 hours in advance, and is approved on a case-by-case basis.

Q: What is the maximum passenger/crew capacity for any non-scheduled charter aircraft or GA flight request for preclearance services at the CBP GA facility?

A: The maximum passenger/crew capacity may not exceed 19 total people per GA flight request.

Q: Will this program include any other types of aircraft processing?

A: No. The United States-Aruba Preclearance Agreement does not provide for the preclearance of cargo or military aircraft.

Q: Who can be precleared?

A: All travelers meeting the regular documentary requirements for entering the United States on private and chartered aircraft may be precleared.

Q: Can animals be precleared in Aruba?

A: The only animals eligible to be precleared are pet dogs, cats, and birds. They must be accompanied by a health certificate that includes rabies vaccination information and be free of sickness or other anomalies. Passengers with live birds must have a completed Veterinary Services (VS) permit and must have scheduled an inspection of the bird by Veterinary Services at the port of destination. The permit, VS Form 17-135, must accompany the bird at the time of inspection.

Q: What are CBP's operating hours for private and charter aircraft at Aruba?

A: Preclearance of GA aircraft is conducted Sunday through Saturday from 0800-1600 EST (0900-1700 EDST). The request is also determined by the PC service hours as indicated by Universal Aviation (UA) Aruba and Aruba Airport Authority. If you have any questions on permitted departure times for precleared GA flight requests, please visit the [UA Aruba website](#) or call (international): 011-297-588-2467.

Q: What are the program conditions for requesting and operating GA preclearance flights in Aruba?

A: Pilots of Private Aircraft and non-scheduled commercial carriers, or their representatives, must:

- Request and be approved preclearance services at least 24 hours in advance of departure and before close of business the previous day;
- Submit an electronic manifest (APIS) no later than 60 minutes prior to *inspection start time*;
- Present travelers, all baggage and aircraft for inspection to the CBP facility;
- All personal effects must be removed from the aircraft for the preclearance inspection.
- Ensure servicing of the aircraft is conducted prior to its physical CBP inspection;
- Compliance with other CBP requirements as indicated on www.cbp.gov and as indicated in the "CBP Preclearance of General Aviation Summary Guide".

Q: How do I request preclearance services from CBP in Aruba?

A: Requests are made by calling internationally 011-297-588-7240 during CBP Aruba Preclearance regular business hours. (0900-1700 EDST; 0800-1600 EST).

Q: Where can aircraft land in the United States after being precleared at Aruba?

A: A list of CBP approved airports, in addition to other details on private aircraft processing is available in the Travel section of www.cbp.gov.

Q: Where can I get information about Reina Beatrix International Airport at Oranjestad, Aruba?

A: Please visit www.airportaruba.com

Q: Will CBP offer preclearance services for private and charter flights at other locations?

A: CBP has also operated a GA preclearance program at Shannon Airport in Shannon, Ireland since March of 2010.