



February 5, 2016 CLP@dhs.gov

Visa Waiver Program Passport Compliance Update

The Visa Waiver Program Improvement and Terrorist Travel Prevention Act of 2015 was signed into law on December 18, 2015. The new law requires all VWP travelers to have an electronic passport (e-passport) by April 1, 2016. Passengers are ineligible to travel under VWP without an e-passport on or after April 1, 2016.

An e-Passport, denoted by the symbol [chip icon] on the passport cover, is an enhanced secure passport with an embedded electronic chip. E-Passports are issued by the proper passport issuing authority and must meet international standards for securing and storing information corresponding to the passport and bearer.

The new e-passport requirement supersedes pages 15, 16, and 68 in the 2014 U.S. Customs and Border Protection Carrier Information Guide. The following are passport cover examples:



If a traveler is requesting assistance or wants to speak to someone immediately, they may contact the CBP Information Center, http://www.cbp.gov/contact. For additional information, carriers are directed to contact CBP's Carrier Liaison Program at CLP@dhs.gov.

Regional Carrier Liaison Groups (RCLG) are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to assist carriers with questions regarding U.S. entry requirements and authenticity of travel documents.

Table with 3 columns: RCLG, SERVICE AREA, PHONE NUMBER. Rows include Honolulu, Miami, New York and their respective service areas and phone numbers.