



# U.S. Customs and Border Protection

## Preclearance Operations

# FACT SHEET

Preclearance Operations are part of U.S. Customs and Border Protection's (CBP) Office of Field Operations which has the responsibility of managing 329 ports of entry nationwide. Preclearance supports CBP's extended border strategy by providing for the inspection and clearance of commercial passengers on foreign soil. These operations are established via a formal agreement between the United States and host country, which allows CBP to staff officers at host airports and facilitate the customs and immigration process for passengers prior to arrival in the U.S.

### Key Objectives

- Prevent terrorists, terrorist instruments and other national security threats from gaining access to the United States.
- Intercept inadmissible persons and goods before boarding U.S.-bound conveyances.
- Protect U.S. agricultural infrastructure from foreign pests, disease and global outbreaks.
- Facilitate entry of legitimate trade and travelers across our U.S. borders.
- Reduce congestion at U.S. "gateway" airports and support domestic connections.
- Foster cooperation with foreign (host) authorities in trade, diplomacy, law enforcement and security.

### Functions of a Preclearance location

Since 1952, the U.S. government has operated preclearance offices beyond its borders. Today, CBP has 15 locations in five countries, including:

Aruba

Bermuda

The Bahamas: Freeport and Nassau

Ireland: Shannon and Dublin

Canada: Calgary, Edmonton, Halifax, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Victoria\*, Vancouver\*, Winnipeg.

\* CBP conducts pre-inspection (passport control only) on ferries in Victoria, and cruise vessels and trains in Vancouver. Customs and agriculture formalities are completed upon arrival. Vancouver also conducts airport preclearance.

A preclearance inspection is essentially the same inspection that an individual would undergo at a U.S. port of entry. The only difference is that it is conducted outside the United States. All mission requirements are completed at the preclearance port prior to travel, including immigration, customs, and agriculture inspections. This provides for "domestic"-style arrivals at U.S. airports, improving border efficiency for business and pleasure travelers. Passengers found to be inadmissible to the U.S. are denied boarding on the conveyance.

In Fiscal Year 2012, CBP officers and agriculture specialists precleared 15.6 million travelers destined to the United States.

### Establishing Preclearance

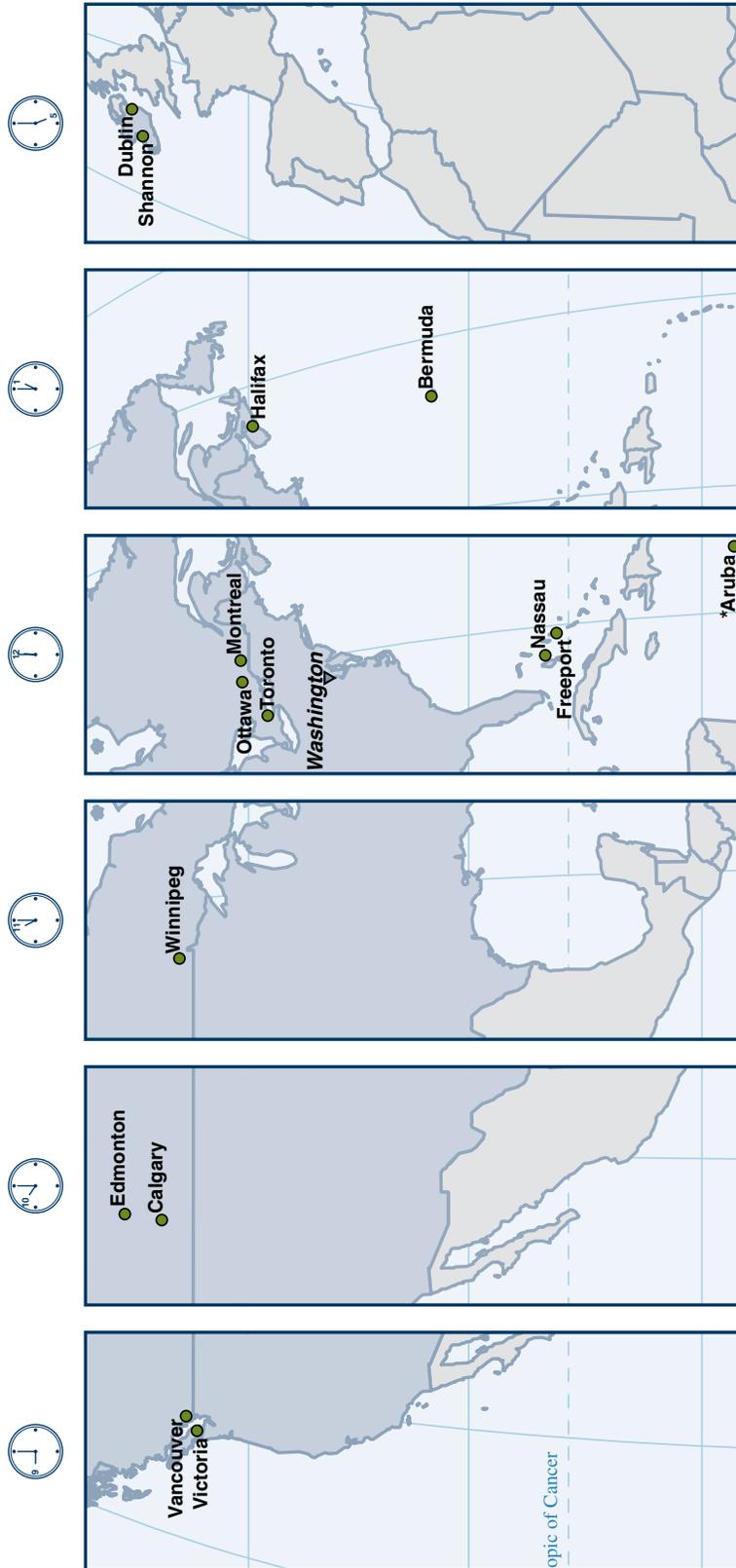
Expansion of preclearance must advance CBP's security and passenger facilitation missions, and must be cost effective for the federal government. Toward these objectives, CBP conducts a feasibility analysis of any requests for new locations. In addition, several baseline requirements for any foreign country desiring to host a new preclearance location include:

- Law enforcement authorities to conduct preclearance for CBP officers and agriculture specialists.
- A minimum threshold of 400,000 passengers and/or strategic value supporting the DHS and CBP missions.
- Increased cost effectiveness or overall neutrality as compared to domestic processing of the same flights.
- Provision of an inspection facility meeting CBP's technical design standards.
- Diplomatic privileges and immunities for CBP personnel and dependents.
- Adequate schools, medical facilities, security and housing for dependents. ■



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## Preclearance Operations Locations



July 2007

\*Aruba does not observe Daylight Savings Time. From the last Sunday in October to the first Sunday in April, Aruba is 1 hour ahead of Washington, D.C.

