



Monday, December 10, 2007

NEW PHASE OF WESTERN HEMISPHERE TRAVEL INITIATIVE (WHTI) GOES INTO EFFECT JANUARY 31, 2008, REQUIRING GOVERNMENT-ISSUED PHOTO IDENTIFICATION AND PROOF OF CITIZENSHIP AT BORDER CROSSINGS AND SEAPORTS

On January 31, 2008, U.S. Customs & Border Protection (CBP) will begin implementing the next phase of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI), which seeks to establish secure documentation requirements for travelers previously exempt from such requirements upon admission to and departure from the United States. Passport requirements are already in effect at U.S. airports. With this next phase of WHTI implementation, government-issued photo identification and proof of citizenship will be required at our nation's border crossings and seaports of entry. Beginning January 31, 2008, applicants for admission who are 19 years old or older entering via land border crossing or by sea must present government-issued photo identification, such as a drivers license, and proof of citizenship, such as a birth certificate. Travelers who are 18 years old or younger need not present photo identification; however, they must present proof of citizenship, such as a birth or naturalization certificate.

Oral declarations of citizenship alone will no longer be acceptable, even for U.S. citizens. NEXUS, SENTRI, and FAST cards will remain acceptable documents.

Should you have questions regarding the validity of particular documents for admission on or after January 31, 2008, or for assistance in obtaining acceptable documentation, please contact your Tindall & Foster, P.C. immigration attorney. Your Tindall & Foster attorney will be able to review relevant documents with you and provide you with additional information as needed regarding the new document requirements.