



EMAIL BULLETIN

THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE TRAVEL INITIATIVE (WHTI) GOES INTO EFFECT ON JANUARY 8, 2007

All Travelers to the United States Will Be Required to Present Passports for Entry

26 September 2006

The first phase of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI), a joint program of the U.S. Department of State (DOS) and U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), is scheduled to go into effect on January 8, 2007. As reported in previous Tindall & Foster Email Bulletins, the WHTI will require all travelers to and from the United States, Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, Central and South America, and Bermuda to have a passport or other accepted document that establishes both the identity and citizenship of the bearer.

Passports must be presented upon entry and exit beginning January 8, 2007. The DOS and DHS are presently considering proposals to accept the Merchant Mariner Document and the NEXUS Air Card for entry when arriving by air or sea.

Beginning January 8, 2007, all travelers entering or re-entering the United States via air or sea travel must present a passport. This requirement is a radical departure from previous policy and regulatory requirements applicable to most U.S. Citizens, Canadians and Mexicans, who were previously permitted to enter the United States from locations in the Western Hemisphere without presenting a passport.

The second phase of the WHTI will go into effect on January 1, 2008, and will require all travelers entering the United States via land border crossings to present a passport.

Although the DOS and DHS have launched publicity campaigns in an effort to educate travelers in advance of the WHTI effective date of January 8, 2007, employers are urged to take steps to remind their employees that entry into the United States on or after the effective date will require a passport. All international travelers to and from the United States should now begin the process of applying for a passport in order to reduce the risk of travel delays should an urgent or unexpected need for international travel arise in the coming months.

Should your company wish to obtain more information concerning the passport requirement, or engage the assistance of Tindall & Foster, P.C. in obtaining expedited adjudication of passport applications in appropriate cases, please contact your Tindall &

Foster immigration attorney. Your Tindall & Foster immigration attorney will also be happy to assist you in preparing an appropriate communication for dissemination to your workforce to remind all international travelers of the upcoming effective date and expanded document requirements of the WHTI.