

## U.S. IMMIGRATION CLIENT ALERT

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May 11, 2009

### Reminder: Passports Required for Land and Sea Entry to U.S. Beginning June 1

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Beginning June 1, 2009, citizens of the United States, Canada and Bermuda will be required to present a passport or an acceptable alternative document when entering the United States by land or sea.

Travel document requirements will soon change for citizens of the United States, Canada and Bermuda who are entering the United States by land or sea. Beginning June 1, 2009, citizens of these countries will be required to present a passport or other acceptable document when entering the United States by land or sea from Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean region or Bermuda. The new requirements were put in place by the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI), a border security program.

U.S., Canadian and Bermudian citizens will be required to present one of the following when entering the United States by land or sea on or after June 1:

- A valid passport.
- A valid U.S. passport card (U.S. citizens only).
- A Department of Homeland Security trusted traveler program card, such as a NEXUS, SENTRI or FAST program card.
- An enhanced driver's license (EDL). EDLs are driver's licenses that require applicants to provide proof of their citizenship or immigration status. Currently, EDLs are issued by some U.S. states and Canadian provinces, including the States of Michigan, New York, Washington and Vermont, and the Canadian provinces of British Columbia, Manitoba and Quebec. The province of Ontario is to begin issuing EDLs later this month.
- A U.S. military identification card, with proof of military travel orders.
- A U.S. Merchant Marine Document.
- An enhanced tribal identification card, issued by some Native American tribes.

Children under the age of 16 will be able to enter with proof of citizenship, such as a birth certificate, naturalization certificate or citizenship card.

Until June 1, U.S., Canadian and Bermudian citizens are able to enter the United States by land or sea by presenting a document proving citizenship – such as a birth certificate or citizenship certificate – together with government-issued photo identification, though travelers age 18 and under may enter with proof of citizenship alone. If traveling by air, citizens of these countries must present a passport when entering the United States; this requirement has been in place under the WHTI since January 23, 2007.

U.S. lawful permanent residents are not affected by the WHTI document requirements. These individuals may continue to present their Form I-551 permanent resident cards when entering the United States by air, land or sea.

If you have any questions about this Client Alert, please contact your designated FRAGOMEN professional.

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