

Documents for Entry into the United States



Air Ports of Entry



Canadian citizens travelling by air to, through or from the United States must present **one** of the following valid documents:

- a passport; or
- a NEXUS card when used at a kiosk at designated Canadian airports and at all U.S. airports when returning to Canada.

Land and Water Ports of Entry (Effective June 1, 2009)



Canadian citizens are required to present **one** of the following valid WHTI-compliant documents when entering the United States by land or water:

- a passport;
- a NEXUS card;
- a Free and Secure Trade (FAST) card;
- an enhanced driver's licence (EDL) or enhanced identification card (EIC) from a province where a U.S.-approved EDL/EIC program has been implemented; or
- a Secure Certificate of Indian Status (when this certificate is available and approved by the United States). In the interim, the current Certificate of Indian Status is an acceptable document to present when entering the United States by land or water.

Note: Canadian citizens entering the United States by land but exiting by air must present a valid passport or a NEXUS card in compliance with U.S. air exit requirements. Refer to the [air travel requirements](#) for more information.

Canadian citizens aged 15 years or under are only required to present proof of Canadian citizenship, such as an original or a photocopy of a birth certificate, or an original citizenship card. Canadian citizens 18 years of age or under who are travelling with a school or other organized group, under adult supervision with parental/guardian consent, may also present proof of Canadian citizenship alone.

The United States has indicated that it will take a common sense approach to implementing the WHTI at its land and water ports of entry, which includes a period of flexibility after June 1, 2009. The Government of Canada cautions travellers that the length and extent of this flexibility is entirely at the discretion of U.S. officials.

Entry requirements to the United States have not changed for non-Canadian citizens, including permanent residents residing in Canada. For more information on U.S. entry requirements, consult the [U.S. Department of Homeland Security's](#) Web site.

Further Information and Assistance

The Government of Canada continues to recommend that Canadians carry a valid Canadian passport when visiting all destinations abroad, including the United States. A passport is the only universally accepted identification document, and it proves that you have a right to return to Canada. Canadians are not required to have Machine Readable Passports to enter the U.S., even if the passport was issued abroad. Canada is not a participant in the [U.S. Visa Waiver Program](#). Canadians who are permanent residents of the United States must comply with special entry requirements. For more information, see the [U.S. Department of State](#) Web site. Entry requirements to the United States have not changed for non-Canadian citizens residing in Canada. For more information on U.S. entry requirements, consult the [U.S. Department of Homeland Security](#) Web site. More information is available from the [Canada Border Services Agency](#) (CBSA) Web site. In case of WHTI-related problems abroad, please contact the nearest [Canadian Government Office](#) for advice and assistance. For advice on travel to the [United States](#), see our Travel Report.