



# NEWS

## United States Consulate General

J.B. Gorsiraweg #1, Willemstad, Curaçao, Netherlands Antilles  
Tel: 461-3066 Fax: 461-6489

---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: W.J. Remie

**Monday, March 15, 2010**

Phone: 461-3066 ext. 2240

### **ELECTRONIC SYSTEM FOR TRAVEL AUTHORIZATION (ESTA) ADVISORY STATEMENT**

As of January 12, 2009, all nationals and citizens of Visa Waiver Program (VWP) countries are required by U.S. law to obtain a travel authorization prior to initiating travel to the United States under the VWP.

This authorization may be obtained online through the Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA™), a free Internet application administered by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) through a U.S. government Web site.

DHS does not charge VWP travelers a fee for completion of an ESTA™ application. Eligible visitors seeking to travel to the United States under the VWP may apply for travel authorization via the ESTA™ Web site at <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov>.

An approved ESTA is not a visa. It does not meet the legal or regulatory requirements to serve in lieu of a U.S. visa when a visa is required under U.S. law. Individuals who possess a valid visa will still be able to travel to the United States on that visa for the purpose for which it was issued. Individuals traveling on valid visas are not required to apply for an ESTA.

VWP travelers should be aware that unauthorized third-parties have established Web sites, which charge visitors seeking to travel to the United States under the VWP, for information about ESTA™ and for submitting ESTA™ applications to DHS on behalf of the traveler. These businesses and Web sites are not endorsed by, associated with, or affiliated in any way with DHS or the United States Government. Again, the United States Government does not charge a fee to obtain information about, apply for, or obtain a travel authorization through the ESTA™ Web site. Use of a private service to apply for travel authorization via ESTA™ will not expedite the granting of approval.

The ESTA™ application website includes a help section that provides additional information for VWP travelers to guide them through the application process. Additional information about ESTA™ may be found at <http://www.cbp.gov/esta>. Each approved ESTA application will be valid for a period of two years, so that a visitor could travel to the United States repeatedly within a two-year period without obtaining another ESTA. Travelers whose ESTA applications

are approved, but whose passports will expire in less than two years, will receive an ESTA valid until the passport's expiration date.

DHS is designing ESTA to accommodate last-minute and emergency travel. DHS recommends, however, that travelers obtain an ESTA at the time of reservation or ticket purchase, or at least 72 hours before departure to the United States.

VWP travelers do not need to bring a paper printout of their ESTA approval to the airport. However, DHS recommends that travelers print out the ESTA application response in order to maintain a record of their ESTA application number and to have confirmation of their ESTA status. Since January 20, airlines may refuse boarding to VWP travelers without an approved ESTA. A VWP traveler should always check their local airline boarding policies before traveling.

For more information please check the following information sheet.

[http://www.cbp.gov/linkhandler/cgov/travel/id\\_visa/esta/about\\_esta/esta\\_faq.ctt/esta\\_faq.pdf](http://www.cbp.gov/linkhandler/cgov/travel/id_visa/esta/about_esta/esta_faq.ctt/esta_faq.pdf)

###

---

---

**U.S. CONSULATE GENERAL**

<http://curacao.usconsulate.gov>