



Embassy of the United States of America
Press and Information Office
2, avenue Gabriel
75382 Paris Cedex 08

Press Release

August 10, 2010

The U.S. Embassy to France wishes to inform you that on August 6, 2010, the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) announced that **beginning on September 8, 2010**, travelers from Visa Waiver Program (VWP) countries, including France, will be required to pay a fee of \$14.00 when applying for an Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA).

\$4.00 of the fee will recover the administrative costs incurred by CBP for ESTA. The remaining \$10 is a travel promotion fee. All payments for electronic travel authorization applications must be made by credit card or debit card when applying for or renewing an ESTA. Collection of the fees will begin for ESTA applications filed on or after September 8.

ESTA is an electronic travel authorization that all nationals traveling under the VWP must obtain prior to boarding a carrier to travel by air or sea to the United States. This travel authorization has been mandatory since Jan. 12, 2009. To learn more about ESTA, see <http://french.france.usembassy.gov/esta.html>

ESTA applications may be submitted at any time prior to travel. Once approved, authorizations are generally valid for multiple entries into the U.S. for up to two years or until the applicant's passport expires. **Travelers with an ESTA approved before September 8 will not need to pay the ESTA fees when updating an ESTA application.** However, travelers with new passports and re-applying for an ESTA will need to pay the ESTA fees.

To see the full CBP press release concerning the new ESTA fee, see http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/newsroom/news_releases/national/08062010_2.xml