

Important Reminder on the Visa Waiver Program/ESTA and Travel to the United States:

The U.S. Embassy in Port Moresby wishes to remind all travelers who are able to travel to the United States via the Visa Waiver Program (VWP) that **as of 01 April 2016**, they must have a valid **electronic passport**. In anticipation of this requirement, CBP will cancel the ESTAs of VWP travelers whose passports CBP believes are not e-passports. Notifications of cancellation are expected to commence as early as Monday, March 28, 2016. The cancellations will be on a rolling basis, since CBP cannot process the potential high volume of cancellations in one batch.

This rule applies even to those who already possess a valid Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA) visa. The U.S. Embassy strongly recommends that all travelers check to ensure their passports are valid electronic passports before they make arrangements to travel to the United States on the Visa Waiver Program.

Electronic passports have this symbol on their cover:



You can check if your passport is valid for travel under the VWP by **carefully reading the following page**: <https://travel.state.gov/content/visas/en/visit/visa-waiver-program.html>.

Any traveler who does not have a valid electronic passport is still eligible to travel to the United States with a valid nonimmigrant visa issued by a U.S. embassy or consulate. Such travelers will be required to appear for an interview and obtain a visa in their passports at a U.S. embassy or consulate before traveling to the United States. Information on visa applications can be found at: <http://travel.state.gov/content/visas/en.html>.

Instructions for reinstating a canceled ESTA: CBP has the capability to reinstate an ESTA on a case-by-case basis for travelers with an e-passport. Individuals traveling within 72 hours on their e-passport may contact CBP at +1 202-344-3710 (Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. ET); CBP has urged our discretion in providing this number *only* to applicants traveling within 72 hours. Individuals whose travel is more than 72 hours away should email CBP through the portal at help.cbp.gov.