



# PRESS RELEASE

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## **Implementing the Electronic System for Travel Authorization for all Visa Waiver Program member countries**

The American Embassy in Damascus announces that the Department of Homeland Security, in cooperation with U.S. embassies and consulates abroad, expects the Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA) to be mandatory for current Visa Waiver Program (VWP) member countries on January 12, 2009. ESTA registration will be mandatory for all new VWP member countries as of the date of their country's admission into VWP. Travelers from VWP member countries must submit their ESTA application online at the address listed below.

Once ESTA is mandatory, all nationals or citizens of VWP countries who plan to travel to the United States under the VWP will be required to register and be approved under ESTA prior to boarding a carrier to travel by air or sea to the United States. The ESTA is an automated system that will assist in determining eligibility to travel to the United States under the VWP and determining whether such travel poses any law enforcement or security risk.

To apply for the ESTA please visit -

[https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov/esta/esta.html?\\_flowExecutionKey=\\_c37A786EB-B776-6AF9-BCCB-A86C4468FE74\\_kE687A891-6C26-61FB-4E6D-5A2F6225AC6F](https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov/esta/esta.html?_flowExecutionKey=_c37A786EB-B776-6AF9-BCCB-A86C4468FE74_kE687A891-6C26-61FB-4E6D-5A2F6225AC6F)

For more information about ESTA please visit -

[http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/travel/id\\_visa/esta/](http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/travel/id_visa/esta/)

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