



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION: ENTRY REQUIREMENTS TO THE USA Electronic System for Travel Authorisation (ESTA)

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Effective January 12, 2009, all nationals and citizens of Visa Waiver Program (VWP) countries will be required by law to obtain a travel authorisation prior to initiating travel to the United States under the VWP. Travelers wishing to visit the USA under the Visa Waiver Programme – which includes passport holders from Australia and New Zealand – will be required to “pre-register” their intention to enter the USA at least 72 hours prior to their scheduled departure.

**As of April 1, 2016, you must have an e-passport to use the VWP.** An [e-Passport](#) is an enhanced secure passport with an embedded electronic chip. You can readily identify an e-Passport, because it has a unique international symbol on the cover.

**Guests are no longer able to apply and be approved for an Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA) within 72 hours of travel departure. Guests must now apply for their ESTA at least 72 hours in advance of travel. Guests arriving at the airport for travel to the United States without a previously approved ESTA will likely result in being denied boarding.**

Eligible nationals or citizens of countries that participate in the VWP require either an ESTA or a visa to transit the United States. If a traveller is only planning to transit through the United States en route to another country, when he or she completes the ESTA application, the traveler should enter the words “In Transit” and his or her final destination in the address lines under the heading “Address While In The United States”.

**All intending travellers are required to apply online to the Department of Homeland Security for a travel authorisation, prior to boarding an aircraft or vessel to the USA. Travellers who do not apply for and receive a formal travel authorisation ahead of their intended departure date will not be able to board a flight or ship to the USA.**

This is not a regulation created by airlines. It is a requirement of the US Government, and unfortunately, where passengers do not have a travel authorisation, airline check-in staff will not be able to resolve the problem. Nor will Skimax be liable for any costs or cancellation penalties or inconvenience where travellers do not have a travel authorisation and are not permitted to travel.

To avoid potential disruption and in the event of denied boarding, please be aware of this requirement now and make sure the authorisation procedure is adhered to.



**To apply online for a US Travel Authorisation, please visit <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov>**

Travel authorizations are generally valid for two years or until your passport expires, whichever comes first. Once travel authorisation is sought and obtained, passengers must update their travel plans online for subsequent visits to the USA, quoting their travel authorisation number.

#### **ESTA FEE**

There is a USD21.00 fee to obtain travel authorization.

All payment for electronic travel authorization applications must be made by credit card or debit card. The ESTA system currently accepts only the following credit/debit cards: MasterCard, VISA, American Express, Discover (JCB or Diners Club only), and PayPal.

**Your application will not be submitted for processing until all payment information is received.**

CBP is not responsible for any additional fees that may be charged by your credit card company for the transaction.

**For more information please visit the U.S Customs and Border Protection website;**

<http://www.cbp.gov/travel/international-visitors/visa-waiver-program>