



# FEDERATION OF AMERICAN CONSUMERS AND TRAVELERS - NEWS RELEASE -

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## **New Land and Sea Travel Rules Now In Effect**

EDWARDSVILLE, IL, June 8, 2009 -The Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI) now requires that all citizens of the United States, Canada, Mexico, and Bermuda possess and present a passport, or other accepted document, that establishes the bearer's identity and nationality.

*Such documents are now needed to enter or depart the United States from or to anywhere within the Western Hemisphere -- whether by land, sea or air.*

This change in travel document requirements is the result of recommendations made by the 9/11 Commission; it was subsequently passed into law in the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004.

Vicki Rolens, managing director of the Federation of American Consumers and Travelers (FACT), reports that WHTI has been rolling out in two phases. "WHTI began with air travel requirements which went into effect January 23, 2007," Rolens says. "Since then, all travelers -- including babies and small children -- have been required to hold a passport or secure travel document when entering or leaving the United States by air. As of June 1st of this year, the same requirements apply to land and sea travel."

Rolens says that more details, including a list of acceptable documents, can be obtained by visiting the Department of Homeland Security's Web site: <http://www.dhs.gov/index.shtm>

FACT is a not-for-profit association which was founded in 1984 and which provides free consumer information on travel and a variety of other topics which impact the American consumer. The association offers more than 30 additional benefits, ranging from [medical insurance](#) and [dental care discounts](#) to [prescription drug savings](#) and [scholarships](#). The association serves more than 1 million Americans nationwide.

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Questions may be directed to FACT by sending an e-mail to [cservice@usafact.org](mailto:cservice@usafact.org). More information on the Federation of American Consumers and Travelers may be found in the *Encyclopedia of Associations*, and by visiting the association's Web site ([www.usafact.org](http://www.usafact.org)). [The organization was formed](#) under the not-for-profit corporation laws of the District of Columbia in 1984. FACT's administrative office is located at 318 Hillsboro Avenue, Edwardsville, IL 62025.