

# U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION

## Department of Homeland Security

SERVICE PORT OF HOUSTON

### PUBLIC INFORMATION NOTICE

DATE: 06-02-10

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL:  
Chief Officer Alma Montemayor  
at (281) 230 – 4713.

SUBJECT: Automation of CBP Form I-94 Waiver

This Public Information Notice (PIN) provides carriers with notice of U.S. Customs and Border Protection's (CBP) intent to automate the CBP Form I-94W for Visa Waiver Program (VWP) travelers who have successfully applied for an approved travel authorization through the Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA).

The ESTA Interim Final Rule (IFR), published June 9, 2008 stated that the paper CBP Form I-94W may be eliminated once carriers are capable of receiving and validating ESTA status messages. Most carriers are now capable of receiving and validating ESTA status messages via the APIS infrastructure. CBP began enforcing compliance with the ESTA requirement on March 20, 2010, and since that time compliance rates have improved significantly.

CBP is pleased to announce plans to substantially reduce the use of the paper arrival/departure form (Form I-94W) at George Bush Intercontinental Airport (IAH) beginning June 8, 2010.

CBP will continue to require the paper CBP Form I-94W in the land environment, for non ESTA compliant passengers and in the case of system outages. In the case of outages, carriers will be notified of the need to distribute the form to passengers as early as possible. Carriers should also expect to see a significant decrease in the quantity of departure records collected from VWP travelers for outbound flights.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Charles G. Perez, Assistant Port Director-Passenger Operations at (281) 230 – 4708 or Chief Officer Alma Montemayor at (281) 230 – 4713.



Terry L. Estell  
Service Port Director

**DISCLAIMER:** This information has been prepared for your convenience by the CBP officers at the Service Port of Houston. This material is intended to provide guidance. Recognizing that many complicated factors are involved in CBP matters, an importer may wish to obtain a binding ruling under 19 CFR Part 177. Reliance solely on this information may not be considered reasonable care. Importers are referred to Treasury Decision 97-96, which was published in the Federal Register of December 4, 1997, and in the CBP Bulletin of December 17, 1997, for in-depth information on the concept of reasonable care.