



IMPORTANT NOTICE
to
PASSPORT APPLICATION ACCEPTANCE AGENTS

Production of the Passport Card – Update as of July 14, 2008



Please accept our apologies for any misinformation you may have received from us regarding the production date of the new U.S. Passport Card. **We began production today, July 14.**

To date, we have received and adjudicated well over 350,000 applications for the Passport Card since February 1. Customers will receive their Passport Card between now and early September.

Additional Information on the Passport Card

- The passport card was designed to meet the requirements of the land and sea phase of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI) which becomes effective June 2009. The card meets the specific needs of U.S. border resident communities. It facilitates entry and expedites document processing at U.S. land and sea ports-of-entry when arriving from Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean region and Bermuda.
- The passport card is not valid for international travel by air. It will otherwise carry the rights and privileges of the U.S. passport book and will be adjudicated to the exact same standards.
- The card has the same validity period as a passport book: ten years for an adult (age 16 and older), five years for children age 15 and younger.
- First-time applicants will pay \$45 for adult cards and \$35 for children. (These amounts include the \$25 execution/acceptance fee.)
- If eligible, previous passport book holders can apply for their first passport card as a renewal by mail for a \$20 application fee.
- To facilitate the frequent travel of U.S. citizens living in border communities and to meet DHS's operational needs at land borders, the passport card contains a vicinity-read radio frequency identification (RFID) chip.
- There is no personal information written to the RFID chip. The chip points to a stored record in secure government databases.
- With RFID technology, Customs and Border Protection inspectors will be able to access photographs and other biographical information stored in **secure government databases** before the traveler reaches the inspection station.
- The passport card uses state-of-the-art security features to prevent against the possibility of counterfeiting and forgery. In addition, a protective sleeve is provided with each passport card to protect against unauthorized reading or tracking of the card when it is not in use.

For complete passport information please visit us at
travel.state.gov/passport