



**Homeland
Security**

ELECTRONIC SYSTEM FOR TRAVEL AUTHORIZATION (ESTA) ADVISORY STATEMENT

Beginning January 12, 2009, all nationals and citizens of Visa Waiver Program (VWP) countries will be required by law to obtain a travel authorization prior to initiating travel to the United States under the VWP. This authorization may be obtained online through the Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTATM), a free Internet application administered by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) through a U.S. government Web site.¹

DHS does not charge VWP travelers a fee for completion of an ESTATM application. Eligible visitors seeking to travel to the United States under the VWP may apply for travel authorization via the ESTATM Web site at <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov>.

VWP travelers should be aware that unauthorized third-parties have established Web sites, which charge visitors seeking to travel to the United States under the VWP, for information about ESTATM and for submitting ESTATM applications to DHS on behalf of the traveler. These businesses and Web sites are not endorsed by, associated with, or affiliated in any way with DHS or the United States Government. Again, the United States Government does not charge a fee to obtain information about, apply for, or obtain a travel authorization through the ESTATM Web site. Use of a private service to apply for travel authorization via ESTATM will not expedite the granting of approval.

The ESTATM application Web site is available in 16 languages and includes a help section that provides additional information for VWP travelers to guide them through the application process. Additional information about ESTATM may be found at <http://www.cbp.gov/esta>.

¹ The United States has recently announced plans to expand the VWP, and beginning November 17, 2008, eligible citizens and nationals from the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Republic of Korea, Latvia, Lithuania and Slovakia will be able to travel to the United States under the VWP provided they have an e-passport and an approved authorization via ESTATM.