



December 12, 2008

U.S. IMMIGRATION ALERT – December 12, 2008

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING
NEW U.S. TRAVEL AUTHORISATION REQUIREMENT
Replacing:
VISA WAIVER PROGRAM (VWP)**

Effective January 12, 2009, it will be mandatory for all VWP business or pleasure travellers whether transiting through the U.S., or remaining for less than 90 days, obtain an Electronic System for Travel Authorisation (ESTA) from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Travellers who do not possess a valid ESTA on or after January 12, 2009 will not be permitted to board their carrier to travel to the U.S.A.

The ESTA must be obtained prior to embarking on either air or sea travel to the U.S.

The no-cost Authorisation must be applied for on-line at least 72 hours prior to initial travel commencing on or after January 12, 2009. Please refer to: www.cbp.gov/esta)

Once approved, the authorisation is valid for 2 years, or for validity of the passport, whichever occurs first.

It is essential that applicants for ESTA have a machine readable passport, or if the passport was issued after October 26, 2006, it must be an e-passport.

ESTA replaces the green I-94 card which has traditionally been completed on board, prior to arriving in the U.S.

Nationalities approved for Visa Waiver Program eligibility as at November 17, 2008 are:

Australia	Andorra	Austria	Belgium
Brunei	Czech Republic	Denmark	Estonia
Finland	France	Germany	Hungary
Iceland	Ireland	Italy	Japan
Latvia	Liechtenstein	Lithuania	Luxembourg
Monaco	New Zealand	Netherlands	Norway
Portugal	Republic of Korea	San Marino	Singapore
Slovak Republic	Slovenia	Spain	Sweden
Switzerland	United Kingdom		

Expat International is an independent global migration and relocation management consultancy operating throughout Australia, New Zealand and in London, with established networks worldwide.

Since 1987 Expat 's Visa Division has served Australian companies and multi-nationals in the management and acquisition of their Australian and global visa requirements.

Expat's combined delivery of in-house visa and relocation activities provides a streamlined, unique and value-add service for your company, which has proved to simplify employee transfer schedules both inbound and outbound.

We welcome discussion with you to arrive at best-possible solutions for your Australian or Global Visa and Relocation issues, and look forward to doing so.

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Disclaimer

Whilst all care has been taken to ensure that the information provided in this newsletter is accurate and current as of publication date, individual travellers to the USA should independently confirm their eligibility to use the ESTA system and the process requirements by visiting the following website http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/travel/id_visa/esta/ .

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