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NEWS UPDATE

May 28, 2010

Subject: Visa Waiver Travel Goes Paperless

DHS announced the elimination of the green I-94W card for Visa Waiver Program (“VWP”) authorized travelers. Instead, VWP traveler information will be automatically provided to DHS with passenger information prior to departure through the Electronic System for Travel Authorization (“ESTA”). Customs and Border Protection (“CBP”) will activate automated processing for U.S. airports on a rolling basis over the next several months.

The VWP enables nationals of thirty –six countries to travel to the United States for up to 90 days without obtaining a visa. As of January 12, 2009, all VWP travelers must apply for an ESTA prior to boarding an air or sea carrier to the U.S. ESTA is a free, automated system that determines the eligibility of visitors to travel to the U.S. under the VWP. The ESTA application collects the same information collected on Form I-94W, and is submitted online through CBP’s website. CBP recommends that travelers submit ESTA applications as soon as an applicant begins making travel plans. ESTA applications may be submitted at any time prior to travel, and once approved, will be valid for two years or until the traveler’s passport expires.

If you have any questions, email us at contactRS@rudnickspector.com.

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