

Birds are usually subject to Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) quarantine. For more information request Customs and Border Protection publication *Pets and Wildlife*.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service maintains very strict controls on importing animals, birds, turtles, wildlife, endangered species, and almost all products made from the foregoing. Contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at 703.358.1949 for more information. For health-related requirements for animals other than pet dogs or cats, contact the APHIS, USDA Veterinary Services at 301.734.8645.

## Currency

There is no limitation on the amount of monetary instruments that may be brought into or out of the United States. If you take out or bring in more than \$10,000 in currency or negotiable instruments, you must file a report (FinCen Form 105) with CBP. This can be done at any port of arrival or departure. Failure to do so can result in civil or criminal penalties.

## Search Authority

Title 19, Section 1582 of the U.S. Code authorizes U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers and agriculture specialists to search, inspect, and/or examine, all persons, luggage, and merchandise discharged or unladen from a carrier arriving in the United States from a foreign destination. CBP officers randomly select individuals for inspections to ensure compliance with U.S. laws.

As amended, the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), authorizes officers to question, under oath, any person coming into the United States to determine his or her admissibility. In addition, officers have the authority to search, without a warrant, the person and effects of any person seeking admission, when there is reason to believe that grounds of exclusion exist that would be disclosed by such a search.

## U.S. Customs and Border Protection Customer Service Standards

Customer service standards, which are our pledge to the traveler, are posted throughout the inspection areas. They guarantee that CBP officers and agriculture specialists will be professional and courteous to everyone, and that the officers will clear the majority of international travelers within five

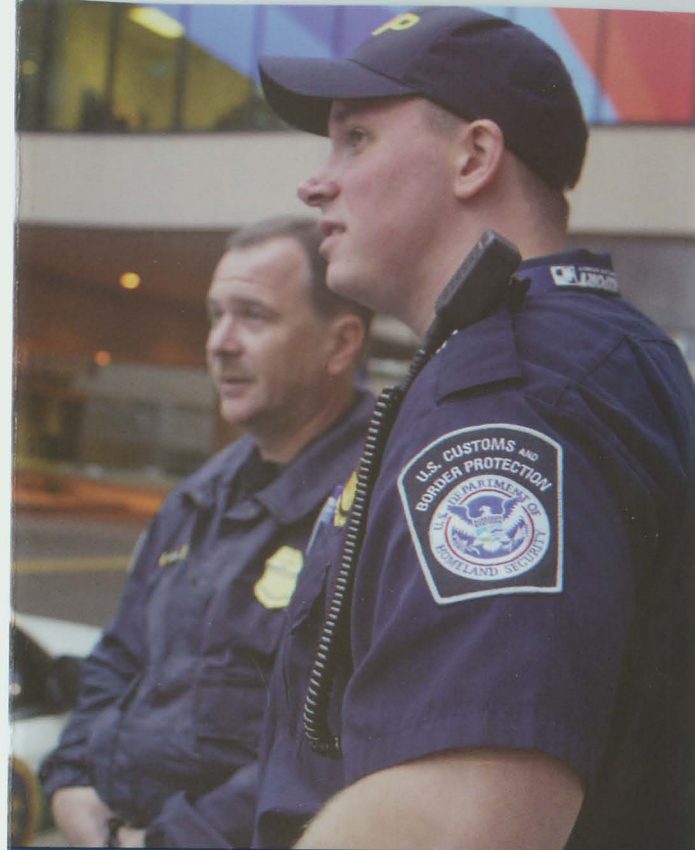
vice representative will be on hand in the inspection area to answer any questions or concerns. If you feel that we have not lived up to our standards and you wish to lodge a written complaint, be sure to include your phone number and a CBP official will contact you about your concerns within one day of receiving your correspondence.

## Play It Safe

This is only a brief overview of U.S. Customs and Border Protection requirements. To request additional information please contact your local U.S. Customs and Border Protection office. You will find listings for ports of entry on our Web site at [www.cbp.gov](http://www.cbp.gov). You may also call U.S. Customs and Border Protection in Washington, D.C., at 1.877.CUSTOMS or 202.354.1000. We will be happy to send you a copy of our brochure *Know Before You Go* which describes in detail everything that you should . . . know before you go.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection  
Washington, D.C. 20229

Please visit the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Web site at:  
[www.cbp.gov](http://www.cbp.gov)



# U.S. Customs and Border Protection In Brief



U.S. Customs and

## Immigration Declarations

Upon arriving in the United States, all non-United States citizens will receive either Form I-94 (white), Arrival/Departure Record, or Form I-94W (green), Nonimmigrant Visa Waiver Arrival/Departure Form to complete. The forms ask for basic identification information and the address where you will be staying in the United States.

If you are a foreign visitor, the officer must determine why you are coming to the United States, what documents you may require, if you have those documents, and how long you should be allowed to initially stay in the United States. These determinations usually take less than one minute to make. If you are allowed to proceed, the officer will stamp your passport and issue a completed Form I-94 to you. A completed form will show what immigration classification you were given and how long you are allowed to stay.

## Required Documents

If traveling from outside of the Western Hemisphere (North, Central, and South America) a U.S. citizen must present a passport. If traveling from inside the Western Hemisphere, any proof of U.S. citizenship that clearly establishes identity and nationality is permitted such as a birth certificate or baptismal record.

A non-U.S. citizen who is a lawful permanent resident of the United States must present a permanent resident card, a.k.a. "green card" (INS Form I-551), a reentry permit, or a returning resident visa.

Generally, a foreign visitor must present a passport and a valid visa issued by a U.S. Consular official.

If staying for no more than 90 days, under the Visa Waiver Program, nationals of participating countries do not require a visa to apply to enter the United States as a visitor for business or pleasure.

Canadians do not generally require a visa unless entering the United States as a Treaty Trader, classification E.

## Customs Declarations

You will receive a U.S. Customs and Border Protection declaration form (CBP Form 6059-B) on your flight or vessel before

you return to the United States. You must fill out and sign the declaration form in its entirety. Families returning together may prepare a joint declaration. You must declare the total value of all articles acquired abroad and in your possession at the time you return. This includes articles you bought; gifts you received; repairs, or alterations made while you were out of the United States; and any items you brought home for someone else. (Items you intend to sell or use in a business must be declared separately.) If an item was not purchased, but was given to you, make an estimate of its fair retail value in the country in which it was acquired, and declare that amount when you return.

**WARNING:** If you understate the value of, or otherwise misrepresent, an article you have declared, you may be assessed penalties in addition to duty.

## Standard Exemption

If you are a returning U.S. resident and the items you acquired abroad accompany you, your duty-free exemption is \$800. This duty-free exemption may include:

- 100 cigars and 200 cigarettes. (Products of Cuban tobacco are prohibited entry into the United States unless the product was purchased in Cuba in accordance with Office of Foreign Assets Control Regulations [31 CFR 515.560].)
- One liter of wine, beer, or liquor if you are at least 21 years old.

However, the duty-free exemption is \$600, if you are returning directly from a Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act country and the exemption is \$1,200, if returning from American Samoa, Guam, or the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Articles imported in excess of your exemptions will be subject to duty. If your purchases and acquisitions exceed the allowable duty-free exemption plus \$1,000, you must itemize in writing these purchases/acquisitions on the back of the declaration form. Sales slips, invoices, or other evidence of purchase will be helpful when you complete your declaration.

If you are visiting the United States, you may bring in personal effects duty free, including 200 cigarettes or 100 cigars and one liter of alcoholic beverages. You may bring in gifts up to \$100 in value duty free, but alcohol and tobacco may not be included in

the gift exemption. The prohibition on Cuban tobacco products applies to both visitors and returning U.S. residents.

## Mailing Gifts and Purchases from Abroad

Gifts mailed from abroad to people in the United States can be received by them free of duty if the value of the gift does not exceed \$100. Gifts for more than one person can be consolidated into one package. To be eligible for this waiver, each recipient's name must be clearly marked on the package. Non-gift purchases mailed to the United States will pass duty-free if their value does not exceed \$200. The outer wrapping must be marked with the fair retail value of the contents; a description of the contents (e.g., shirts, belts, watch, figurines, etc.); and whether the package is a gift (\$100 exemption) or for personal use (\$200 exemption).

**NOTE:** Duty owed on a mailed package must be paid after it arrives in the United States. Despite what a shop owner abroad may tell you, you cannot prepay duty. Mailed goods are not eligible for the duty-free exemption for U.S. residents.

## Agricultural Items

To prevent the introduction of pests or crop disease into the U.S. food supply, all agricultural and food items brought into the United States must be declared. To learn more about what agricultural products can be brought into the United States, contact Quarantines, USDA-APHIS-PPQ at 301.734.8645 (plant) or 301.734.7885 (animal); or visit their Web site at [www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq).

## Duty-Free Shops

Articles purchased in "duty-free" shops, or on a plane, or ship are subject to duty and other restrictions, but may be included in your exemption. Articles bought in American duty-free shops are subject to duty and IRS tax if reentered into the United States.

## Pets and Wildlife

Cats and dogs must be free of evidence of diseases communicable to humans. Dogs older than three months must have proof of a rabies vaccination. This vaccination must have been given at least 30 days, but no more than one year, before the travel date.