

## New Passport Requirements

As a result of recent action by the U.S. Congress, important deadlines for passport requirements have changed. Below is a brief description of the deadlines and passport requirements for all three modes of travel into the United States from the Western Hemisphere – air, sea and land – and how this affects travelers.

**NOTE: The U.S. travel industry strongly recommends that Western Hemisphere travelers (both U.S. and international) get a passport in order to simplify the travel process. Parents should also get a passport for their children regardless of age if they will be accompanying adults on such trips.**



### AIR TRAVEL

A passport-only requirement will apply to all travelers – including returning U.S. citizens – entering the U.S. by air from the Western Hemisphere on or shortly after January 8, 2007. This new requirement includes Canadians and others who have previously been exempt from having to carry a passport. Airlines have been asking customers to present passports on these air travel routes and believe this new requirement will have a minimal impact on air travel between the U.S. and other Western Hemisphere countries.



### SEA (CRUISE) TRAVEL

There is now no need to have a passport while taking a cruise. The new requirement for a passport or other secure travel document will be enforced for Western Hemisphere travel into the U.S. by cruise ship at some point prior to June 1, 2009. No exact date is set, but the “sea” or cruise deadline will be identical to the land border travel date for implementation. By law, cruise travelers will also have the option of utilizing the PASS (People Access Security Service) card under development by the U.S. State Department. This is a low-cost, credit card-sized passport that is envisioned as a less expensive and more convenient alternative to the traditional book-style passport.



### LAND BORDER TRAVEL

Like the cruise deadline, the new land border travel deadline will be enforced at some point prior to June 1, 2009, but no exact date is set. Travelers will have the option of utilizing a traditional passport or the PASS card (see above) for entry into the United States.