

## **US Customs will begin collecting 10 fingerprints for all non-US citizens.**

When entering the US, foreign nationals are required to get both index fingers scanned for fingerprints as well as have a digital photo taken. These two identifiers are used to authenticate the travel documents presented at the port of entry into the US.

Soon this will change and travellers will be required to have all 10 fingers scanned for fingerprints. The US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) says this initiative will enable more thorough checking of travellers' details against the terrorist watch lists and the criminal and illegal immigrant databases. Having all 10 prints available to the DHS makes scanning much faster and more accurate. The US Visitor and Immigrant Status Indicator Technology commented that the ability to check additional fingerprints against the database will lower the number of travellers who are stopped unnecessarily due to their prints matching the prints of a suspicious person.

The US Department of Homeland Security will begin this initiative at Washington Dulles International Airport starting November 29th, 2007 and plans to roll it out to nine additional US airports in early 2008:

- Boston Logan International Airport (Boston, Mass.)
- Chicago O'Hare International Airport (Chicago, Ill.)
- Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport (Detroit, Mich.)
- Hartsfield Jackson Atlanta International Airport (Atlanta, Ga.)
- George Bush Houston Intercontinental Airport (Houston, Texas)
- Miami International Airport (Miami, Fla.)
- John F. Kennedy International Airport (New York, N.Y.)
- Orlando International Airport (Orlando, Fla.)
- San Francisco International Airport. (San Francisco, Calif.)

Currently the US State Department uses the 10-fingerprint scan at all of its overseas visa-issuing locations.

Persons over the age of 79 and under the age of 14 are not required to be fingerprinted.

For further information, please visit the [US Department of Homeland Security website](#).