



## CBP Simplified Arrival Facial Recognition Project

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS), U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), is implementing a new biometric facial recognition capability to streamline the inspection process and verify that the person presenting a travel document for entry into the United States is the true bearer of that document.

All travelers will have their photos captured at the inspection booth. CBP will compare this photo to the traveler's travel document photo(s) using facial recognition technology. This automated tool strengthens CBP's ability to identify persons seeking to enter the U.S. using fraudulent travel documents.

CBP is collecting this information pursuant to its legal authorities, including the requirements of 8 U.S.C. §§ 1225, 1357, and 8 C.F.R. 235.1, the 2002 Enhanced Border Security and Visa Entry Reform Act (Pub. L. 107-173), the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (Pub. L. 108-458), and the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 (Pub. L. 110-53). CBP will maintain these photographs in secure data systems to evaluate the technology, ensure its accuracy, and for auditing. In rare cases, CBP may use and share these images with authorized DHS personnel and other government agencies for law enforcement, judicial proceedings, congressional inquiries, audits, and other lawful purposes. Photos of U.S. citizens not shared with other government entities for law enforcement purposes will be deleted immediately after inspection.

For more information about how data is safeguarded, permissible data sharing, photograph retention and CBP's use of facial recognition technology, please visit [CBP.gov](http://CBP.gov) or [DHS.gov/Privacy](http://DHS.gov/Privacy).

### **Q: Will this facial recognition project delay inspections?**

A: The traveler should experience little to no additional time at the inspection booth. In many cases, the time it takes to process will decrease.

### **Q: Is it mandatory for every traveler to participate, or can I go to a different inspection booth if I do not want my photograph taken?**

A: While all travelers are subject to identity and document verification, the purpose of this CBP technical demonstration is to validate the accuracy and viability of capturing facial images from all travelers on entry. If you do not wish to have your picture taken, and are a U.S. citizen, lawful permanent resident, or an alien included in the regulatory exemptions in 8 C.F.R. 235.1, please notify the CBP officer, who

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Website at [www.cbp.gov](http://www.cbp.gov)

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can determine whether CBP may verify your identity and documents in another manner.

**Q: Will my photograph be shared or stored? How is my privacy protected if I have my photograph taken?**

A: CBP is dedicated to protecting the privacy of all travelers. Photos of non-U.S. citizens will be matched and stored in secure CBP data systems. Photos of U.S. citizens will be deleted immediately after inspection, unless otherwise used for valid law enforcement. More information is available at [www.dhs.gov/privacy-impact-assessments](http://www.dhs.gov/privacy-impact-assessments). Click on "CBP" at the left and "Traveler Verification Service" or "TECS" for more information.

**Q: Where can I receive more information about CBP programs, including those involving biometric collection?**

A: Please go to [www.CBP.gov](http://www.CBP.gov), [www.DHS.gov/Privacy](http://www.DHS.gov/Privacy), or via the CBP Call Center at 1-877-227-5511.

**Q: What options are available if I experience difficulties during the inspection?**

A: Travelers who experience delays in airline boarding can submit an inquiry through the DHS Traveler Redress Inquiry Program (TRIP) at [trip@dhs.gov](mailto:trip@dhs.gov). The program can provide resolution to travelers with difficulties getting through security and inspection at airport checkpoints, train stations, seaports, and land border crossings.

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### Biometric Exit Process

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is collecting facial images from all travelers departing the United States on this flight. CBP will use the images to verify each traveler's identity. CBP is authorized to collect this information by the 2002 *Enhanced Border Security and Visa Entry Reform Act* (Pub. L. 107173), the *Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004* (Pub. L. 108458), and the *Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007* (Pub. L. 110-53). CBP is required to verify the identity of all travelers. All travelers are required to submit to CBP inspection upon exit. Facial images will be matched and then stored for no more than two weeks in secure data systems managed by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in order to further evaluate the technology, ensure its accuracy, and for auditing purposes. In lieu of facial images, travelers may be asked to present travel documents or other proof of identification, and in some cases provide fingerprints. CBP may share traveler entry and exit data with other government agencies, only if the situation warrants, for law enforcement purposes.

**Q: Who will be participating in the exit process? Is it mandatory?**

A: CBP is required to verify the identities of all travelers, and is required to biometrically verify all non-U.S. citizens. CBP will ensure that all legal and privacy requirements are met.

**Q: What information will CBP collect during the exit process?** A: A biometric facial photograph provided by the traveler.

**Q: Will my personal data be shared or stored? How is my privacy protected if I give my information?**

A: The digital photographs of travelers will be stored and matched in secure CBP data systems. CBP is dedicated to protecting the privacy of all travelers. More information is available at [www.dhs.gov/privacy](http://www.dhs.gov/privacy). See "Traveler Verification Service" under "Privacy Compliance."

**Q: Where can I receive more information about the biometric exit process and other CBP programs?**

A: More information is available at [www.cbp.gov](http://www.cbp.gov), [www.dhs.gov/privacy](http://www.dhs.gov/privacy), or via the CBP Info Center at 1-877-227-5511.

**Q: What options are available if I experience difficulties during the test?**

A: Travelers who experience delays in airline boarding can seek redress through the DHS Traveler Redress Inquiry Program (TRIP) at [trip@dhs.gov](mailto:trip@dhs.gov).

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**U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is taking your photograph while boarding the aircraft to compare your photograph to the the image(s) associated with your passport, other travel documents, or prior border inspections.**

**If you are a U.S. citizen, CBP deletes your photo within 12 hours of being taken<sup>1</sup>. For certain non-U.S. citizens, the photograph will be used as a biometric confirmation of departure from the United States as required by law (e.g., 8 U.S.C. § 1365b).**

**If you do not wish to have your picture taken, please see a CBP Officer to request alternative procedures for identity verification and/or biometric confirmation of departure from the United States.**

<sup>1</sup>A file is saved 12 hours or less for continuity of operations.

**For more information, please visit our website at [www.CBP.gov](http://www.CBP.gov).**