



Homeland
Security

UNITED STATES BEGINS COLLECTING 10 FINGERPRINTS FROM INTERNATIONAL VISITORS AT U.S. PORTS OF ENTRY

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is upgrading from collecting two to collecting 10 fingerprints from international visitors when they enter the United States. This change enhances security and facilitates legitimate travel by more accurately and efficiently establishing and verifying visitors' identities.

The following U.S. airports are now collecting additional fingerprints from international visitors as part of the entry process: Washington Dulles International Airport, Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, Boston Logan International Airport, Chicago O'Hare International Airport and George Bush Houston Intercontinental Airport. The remaining air, sea and land border ports of entry will begin collecting 10 fingerprints by the end of 2008.

The next ports scheduled to begin collecting 10 fingerprints are: San Francisco International Airport, Miami International Airport, Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport, Orlando International Airport and New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport.

For more than four years, Department of State consular officers and DHS Customs and Border Protection officers have been collecting biometrics—digital fingerprints and a photograph—from all non-U.S. citizens between the ages of 14 and 79, with some [exceptions](#), when they apply for visas or arrive at [U.S. ports of entry](#).

DHS's [US-VISIT program](#) uses biometrics to establish and verify visitors' identities, which helps prevent against identity theft and document fraud. Unlike names and dates of birth, which can be changed, biometrics are unique and are virtually impossible to forge. Because biometric procedures are fast and convenient, they also help US-VISIT expedite travel for the millions of legitimate international visitors who come to the United States each year.