Canada's Electronic Travel Authorization

Traveller Identification at Work

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12 July 2017

Immigration, Refugees
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Immigration, Réfugiés
et Citoyenneté Canada

Canada

Canada's Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA) Initiative

Balancing Perimeter Security and Economic Competitiveness

- Commitment to address threats at the earliest opportunity, outside of the North American perimeter whenever possible.
- Harmonize the Canadian and U.S. approaches to pre-departure screening of visa-exempt foreign nationals.

The eTA Initiative

- Visa-exempt foreign nationals (non-U.S.) travelling to Canada by air (3.2 million annually) need to obtain an eTA before flying to or transiting through Canada.
- Canada has expanded eTA eligibility to visa-required citizens from Brazil, Bulgaria or Romanian who are travelling to Canada by air and, at the time of application, previously held a Canadian visa, or who currently hold a valid U.S. visa
- Program designed to prevent high-risk travellers from boarding a flight to Canada

The eTA Application

Traveller flying to or transiting through Canada by air requires an eTA unless otherwise exempt. eTA applies in the air mode only.

Key exemptions:

- Citizens of the United States;
- Other exempt populations outlined in regulation

Applying for an eTA is simple and inexpensive ($7 CAD) that takes just a few minutes to complete:
- Applicants can apply on our website at Canada.ca/eTA and must have a valid passport, a credit or debit card, and an email address
- They will be asked to provide biographic information from their passport and respond to background questions to assess inadmissibility [e.g., criminality, refusals and removals, medical, and public safety];

Processing eTAs

Vast majority of eTA applications approved automatically in minutes:

- A successful application will generate an electronically stored authorization linked to the foreign national's passport number.

- If manual review is required (e.g. for identity reconciliation, or to assess adverse information), the application will be referred for manual review at the in-Canada processing centre

  - The applicant will be notified of next steps within 72 hours (e.g. need to submit documents)

- In some instances, complex cases are referred overseas when interview or more in-depth examination e.g. high-risk cases, is required. Less than 1% of eTA applications are referred overseas;

- Refusals are always made by an officer, there are no automatic refusals.

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Flying to Canada?

Overview of the eTA application process

1. Get your passport, credit or debit card ready, and read the help document.

2. Use the online form to apply. The form cannot be saved. So have your information ready.

3. Pay $7 CAD for your eTA right after you complete the form.

4. Get an email about your eTA application. Most applications are approved within minutes.

or

5. You may need to submit documents before your application can be approved. If this happens to you, an email will be sent with instructions within 72 hours.

Data verifications and client information

System integration:

- Client bio data is verified against existing Canadian information and linked to existing records if applicable

Client Information:

- Client's provide up-front bio data, passport data and answer questions related to criminality and health
- Wording of legislation requires applicants to provide truthful answers
- Serious consequences for withholding or misrepresenting information could be a five year ban from applying for a Canadian travel document

Statistics

- At the end of May, over 4.3 million eTAs issued
  - Less than 1% of eTAs have been refused

- Britain, France, Germany and Australia are the top countries based on application intake

- About 80% of eTA applications are fully automated from application submission to issuance. The remaining 20% are referred for manual review.

- Since the expansion of the eTA requirement on May 1, 2017, over 29,000 eTA applications have been received from Brazilian, Bulgarian and Romanian nationals

CBSA's Interactive Advanced Passenger Information (IAPI) system

- Key commitment in the *Perimeter Security and Economic Competitiveness Action Plan*
- Went live in November 2016, serves to enforce the eTA requirement
- Assists airlines in verifying that all travellers (including those who are eTA-required) have the appropriate travel documents to travel to or transit through Canada by air.
- Generates a board/do not board message at check-in for the airline
- Provides air carriers with a recommendation of whether to board a traveller, and should prevent boarding for passengers who are not properly documented for travel to Canada
- Confidence in advance of who is on the plane

Outreach and Client Support

Getting the message out:

- Soft launch (voluntary period) followed by a phased-in approach
- Comprehensive outreach campaign involving domestic and international partners
- Diverse language outreach materials and marketing to reach top 10 markets
- Media outreach to push the message with a focus on multi-cultural and local language media, including social media

Client Support:

- Robust Q&A section on our website
- Application help guides available in 18 languages
- Online webform for technical questions and case specific questions
- Partnerships within the Government of Canada to provide 24/7 service to industry partners
- Overseas Mission support for Dual Nationals [passport] as well as eTA complex cases assistance

Innovations for the future

Initial design;

- Visa exempt foreign nationals

Present design;

- Visa requiring nationals [Brazil, Bulgaria, and Romania] in some circumstances can apply only for an eTA
- Provides electronic framework for exit/entry data collection
- Provides future opportunities for border clearance leveraging opportunities as more is known before traveller arrives in Canada

Thank you

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