

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 its biometric collection technology to more quickly and accurately identify international visitors. This upgrade includes using new, faster fingerprint scanners to collect additional fingerprints from international visitors when they enter the United States.

The new fingerprint scanners are being used at several U.S. airports. (See sidebar) The remaining air, sea and land border ports of entry will have this technology upgrade by the end of 2008.

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](#).

Biometrics protect our citizens and visitors because they help stop fraud. Unlike names and dates of birth, which can be changed, biometrics are unique and are virtually impossible to forge. For travelers, collecting fingerprints helps protect their identities in the event their travel documents are lost or stolen. For the U.S. government, collecting biometrics helps prevent people from using fraudulent documents to enter the country illegally. And, because biometric procedures are fast and convenient, they also help DHS's [US-VISIT program](#) expedite travel for the millions of legitimate international visitors who come to the United States each year.



U.S. Department of Homeland Security officers use digital fingerprint scanners to collect up to 10 fingerprints from international visitors in order to identify them efficiently during the entry process.

Airports Collecting 10 Fingerprints:

Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, Boston Logan International Airport, Chicago O'Hare International Airport, Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport, George Bush Houston Intercontinental Airport, Miami International Airport, New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport, Orlando International Airport, San Francisco International Airport and Washington Dulles International Airport.