

NewsRelease

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GPO PRODUCES IDENTIFICATION CREDENTIALS FOR NEW BORDER CROSSING RULES

WASHINGTON— All citizens of the United States, Canada, Mexico and Bermuda will be required to present a passport or another approved credential on June 1, 2009 to cross America's northern and southern borders by land, sea or air. The U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO) has been working with the Department of State (DOS) and the Department of Homeland Security, Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to produce two of the required credentials to meet the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI).

GPO designed, printed, encoded and personalized more than 500,000 Trusted Traveler Program cards (NEXUS, SENTRI and FAST) for the CBP. These cards give the bearer faster service in crossing America's northern and southern borders. The card gives travelers the convenience of expedited CBP processing through specially marked lanes at border crossings, similar to the E-Z pass on toll roads.

GPO has been producing passports for DOS since the 1920s. GPO employees at secure plants in Washington, D.C. and Stennis, Mississippi have produced nearly six million passports in the last six months alone to meet the demand of the American people. During Fiscal Year 2008, GPO employees produced a record breaking 24 million passports.

"GPO's success with the passport and Trusted Traveler Program has shown our employees' expertise in design, security printing and personalization, and why GPO has become a state-of-the-art provider for secure federal credentials," said Public Printer Bob Tapella.

Link to images of the passport and Trusted Traveler Program cards: <http://www.gpo.gov/newsroom-media/image.htm>

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