



GMS Flash Alert

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Canada – Immigration Authority Extends eTA Leniency Period to November 9, 2016

Immigration, Refugee, and Citizenship Canada (“IRCC”) recently announced that the “leniency period” for the electronic Travel Authorization (“eTA”) requirement is extended until November 9, 2016.¹ (For prior coverage, see [GMS Flash Alert 2016-038](#), March 16, 2016.)

eTA became effective on March 15, 2016. However, IRCC allowed an initial six-month grace period such that foreign nationals may be eligible to fly to Canada without an eTA until Fall 2016.

WHY THIS MATTERS

Visa-exempt foreign nationals – other than U.S. citizens – are required to obtain an eTA to enter, or transit through, Canada by air. The extension of the “leniency period” allows travelers more time to take necessary steps to apply and obtain an eTA prior to their travels to Canada.²

Starting November 10, 2016, commercial airlines will begin to enforce the eTA requirement – they will receive a “Board” or “No Board” flag from the Interactive Advance Passenger Information System (IAPIS) for each passenger. Airlines will have no discretion to allow individuals with a “No Board” flag to travel to Canada.

All foreign nationals who require an eTA and have anticipated travels to Canada should obtain an eTA at the earliest opportunity.

Background in Brief

In April 2015, IRCC introduced the electronic Travel Authorization (eTA). The objective of the eTA is to allow IRCC to identify individuals with admissibility concerns prior to their arrival at a Canadian port of entry.

An eTA is required for the following individuals traveling to, or transiting through Canada by air:

STATUS	YES	NO
Canadian Citizen travelling with a Canadian Passport		✓
Canadian Permanent Resident travelling with a valid PR Card or PR Travel document		✓
U.S. Citizen		✓
U.S. Permanent Resident / Green Card holder	✓	
Visa-Exempt Foreign Nationals	✓	
Visa-exempt foreign nationals who received a work permit, study permit or a visitor record between August 1, 2015 and March 14, 2016		✓
Foreign Nationals from visa required countries		✓

An eTA is obtained electronically from www.Canada.ca/eTA. The process typically only takes a few minutes and requires a passport number and a credit card payment of C\$7.00. The eTA is valid for five years or until the passport expiry, whichever comes first. An eTA may be cancelled by an Immigration Officer if it is determined that the foreign national subsequently becomes inadmissible to Canada.

FOOTNOTES:

1 For more information, see the [IRCC webpage](#)

2 See the government's September 20, 2016 News Release "[Leniency period for Canada's new Electronic Travel Authorization extended until November 9.](#)"

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Contact us

For additional information or assistance, please contact your local GMS or People Services professional* or the following immigration professional with the KPMG International member firm in Canada:



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