



THE AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL

For Immediate Release

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**Visa Exemption and Passport Requirement
for Bermudian Citizens Traveling to the United States**

The American Consulate and the US Bureau of Customs and Border Protection are providing the following information - in cooperation with the Bermuda Department of Immigration - for Bermudians seeking to travel to the United States.

Not everyone who lives in Bermuda is a Bermudian. In order to benefit from the visa exemption allowed under U.S. law for Bermudians, a person must provide proof that she or he is a *citizen of the British Overseas Territory (BOT) of Bermuda and possesses Bermudian status*.

What is Proof of Bermudian Status?

After January 8, 2007 when new U.S. passports regulations will go into effect, Bermudian travelers will be required to present a passport to enter the United States.

- The cover should say **British Passport** and **Government of Bermuda**.
- The data page of the passport should list the bearer's Nationality as either "British Dependent Territories Citizen" or "British Overseas Territories Citizen"
- The passport should have a stamp – usually placed on the Observations page – which states one of the following:
 - a) "Holder is Registered as a Bermudian"
 - b) "Holder Possesses Bermudian Status"
 - c) "Holder is Deemed to Possess Bermudian Status" and the expiry date has not passed.

A stamp in a foreign passport regarding Bermudian status is not sufficient to enjoy visa-free travel privileges. For example, the bearer of a Jamaican passport with a Bermudian status stamp will still have to apply for a visa.

It is important to emphasize that being a British citizen is NOT the same as being a citizen of the BOT of Bermuda. British citizens are not entitled to the visa exemption that applies to Bermudians, unless they provide proof that they also hold Bermudian status. Nevertheless, eligible British citizens with machine-readable passports may apply for admission to the United States under the Visa Waiver Program.