



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

MAY 15 2008

Mr. Theron O. Keller
[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Keller:

Thank you for your April 28, 2008, correspondence regarding the procedures for certain individual situations, such as an unforeseen emergency or cases of humanitarian interest as outlined in the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI) Land and Sea Final Rule.

To accommodate the needs of travelers in emergency or humanitarian situations, air carriers are requested to notify and work with the appropriate U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Port Director at the port of entry or CBP Preclearance station to facilitate travel to the United States. Coordination with the appropriate CBP port of entry will ensure that emergent situations are managed in an efficient and expeditious manner, mitigating any undue adverse impact on travelers. Air carriers have been provided with this guidance, as well as the contact information for CBP ports of entry.

Additionally, the Department of State (DOS) consular officers at U.S. Embassies and Consulates provide support to United States citizens overseas. United States citizens who find themselves in distress while in a foreign country can seek assistance and guidance from their consulate. The consulate will issue passports to United States citizens that apply, and may be able to further facilitate travel back home. While a passport is not required for United States citizen cruise ship passengers, it is still the preferred document of choice for international overseas travel.

We appreciate your interest in U.S. Customs and Border Protection. Should you have any further questions or require any additional information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Colleen M. Manaher".

Colleen M. Manaher
Director, Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative
Admissibility and Passenger Programs
Office of Field Operations