DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

[CBP Dec. 19–12]

Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative: Designation of an Approved Native American Tribal Card Issued by the Puyallup Tribe of Indians as an Acceptable Document To Denote Identity and Citizenship for Entry in the United States at Land and Sea Ports of Entry

AGENCY: U.S. Customs and Border Protection, DHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces that the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection is designating an approved Native American tribal card issued by the Puyallup Tribe of Indians to U.S. and Canadian citizens as an acceptable travel document for purposes of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative. The approved card may be used to denote identity and citizenship of Puyallup Tribe of Indians members entering the United States from contiguous territory or adjacent islands at land and sea ports of entry.

DATES: This designation will become effective on December 9, 2019.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Colleen Manaher, Executive Director, Planning, Program Analysis, and Evaluation, Office of Field Operations, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, via email at Colleen.M.Manaher@cbp.dhs.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative

Section 7209 of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (IRTPA), Public Law 108–458, as amended, required the Secretary of Homeland Security (Secretary), in consultation with the Secretary of State, to develop and implement a plan to require U.S. citizens and individuals for whom documentation requirements have previously been waived under section 212(d)(4)(B) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(d)(4)(B)) to present a passport or other document or combination of documents as the Secretary deems sufficient to denote identity and citizenship for all travel into the United States. See 8 U.S.C. 1185 note. On April 3, 2008, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Department of State promulgated a joint final rule, effective on June 1, 2009, that implemented the plan known as the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI) at U.S. land and sea ports of entry. See 73 FR 18384 (the WHTI Land and Sea Final Rule). It amended various sections in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), including 8 CFR 212.0, 212.1, and 235.1. The WHTI Land and Sea Final Rule specifies the documents that U.S. citizens and nonimmigrant aliens from Canada, Bermuda, and Mexico are required to present when entering the United States at land and sea ports of entry.

Under the WHTI Land and Sea Final Rule, one type of citizenship and identity document that may be presented upon entry to the United States at land and sea ports of entry from contiguous territory or adjacent islands is a Native American tribal card that has been designated as an acceptable document to denote identity and citizenship by the Secretary, pursuant to section 7209 of IRTPA. Specifically, 8 CFR 235.1(e), as amended by the WHTI Land and Sea Final Rule, provides that upon designation by the Secretary of Homeland Security of a United States qualifying tribal entity document as an acceptable document to denote identity and citizenship for the purposes of entering the United States, Native Americans may be permitted to present tribal cards upon entering or seeking admission to the United States according to the terms of the voluntary agreement entered between the Secretary of Homeland Security and the tribe. It provides that the Secretary of Homeland Security will announce, by publication of a notice in the Federal Register, documents designated under this paragraph. It further provides that a list of the documents designated under this section will also be made available to the public.

A United States qualifying tribal entity is defined as a tribe, band, or other group of Native Americans formally recognized by the United States government which agrees to meet WHTI document standards. See 8 CFR 212.1. Native American tribal cards are also referenced in 8 CFR 235.1(b), which lists the documents U.S. citizens may use to establish identity and citizenship when entering the United States. See 8 CFR 235.1(b)(7). The Secretary has delegated to the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) the authority to designate certain documents as acceptable border crossing documents for persons arriving in the United States by land or sea from within the Western Hemisphere, including certain United States Native American Tribal Cards. See DHS Delegation Number 7105 (Revision 00), dated January 16, 2009.

Tribal Card Program

The WHTI Land and Sea Final Rule allowed U.S. federally recognized Native American tribes to facilitate the development of such cards. As part of the process, CBP will enter into one or more agreements with a U.S. federally recognized tribe that specify the requirements for developing and issuing WHTI-compliant Native American tribal cards, including a testing and auditing process to ensure that the cards are produced and issued in accordance with the terms of the agreements.

After production of the cards in accordance with the specified requirements, and successful testing and auditing by CBP of the cards and program, the Secretary of Homeland Security or the Commissioner of CBP may designate the Native American tribal card as an acceptable WHTI-compliant document for the purpose of establishing identity and citizenship when entering the United States by land or sea from contiguous territory or adjacent islands. Such designation will be announced by publication of a notice in the Federal Register. More information about WHTI-compliant documents is available at www.cbp.gov/travel.

The Pascua Yaqui Tribe of Arizona became the first Native American tribe to have its Native American tribal card designated as a WHTI-compliant document by the Commissioner of CBP. This designation was announced in a notice published in the Federal Register on June 9, 2011 (76 FR 33776). Subsequently, the Commissioner of CBP announced the designation of several other Native American tribal cards as WHTI compliant documents. See, e.g., the Native American tribal cards of the...
The Puyallup Tribe of Indians (Puyallup Tribe) has voluntarily established a program to develop a WHTI-compliant Native American tribal card that denotes identity and U.S. or Canadian citizenship. On July 10, 2015, CBP and the Puyallup Tribe entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to develop, issue, test, and evaluate tribal cards to be used for border crossing purposes. Pursuant to this MOA, the cards are issued to members of the Puyallup Tribe who can establish identity, tribal membership, and U.S. or Canadian citizenship. The cards incorporate physical security features acceptable to CBP as well as facilitative technology allowing for electronic validation of identity, citizenship, and tribal membership by CBP.

CBP has tested the cards developed by the Puyallup Tribe pursuant to the above MOA and related agreements, and has performed an audit of the tribe’s card program. On the basis of these tests and audit, CBP has determined that the Native American tribal cards meet the requirements of section 7209 of the IRTPA and are acceptable documents to denote identity and citizenship for purposes of entering the United States at land and sea ports of entry from contiguous territory or adjacent islands.

The voluntary pilot began on July 10, 2015, and the pilot and extends the duration of the pilot an additional twelve months (through August 2021). DATES: The voluntary pilot began on August 22, 2019, and will run for a total of approximately 24 months, through August 2021. CBP will accept applications from prospective pilot participants at any time until CBP has identified a sufficient number of eligible participants. At this time, the pilot is limited to a maximum of nine participants.

**Addresses:** Prospective pilot participants should submit an email to e-commerce@cbp.dhs.gov. In the subject line of your email please indicate “Application for Section 321 Data Pilot.” For information on what to include in the email, see section II.D (Application Process and Acceptance) of the notice published in the Federal Register on July 23, 2019 (84 FR 35405).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Laurie Dempsey, Director, IPR & E-Commerce Division at laurie.b.dempsey@cbp.dhs.gov or 202–615–0514 and Daniel Randall, Branch Chief, Manifest & Conveyance Security at 202–344–3282.

**Supplementary Information:**

**I. Section 321 Data Pilot**

On July 23, 2019, CBP published a general notice in the Federal Register (84 FR 35405) (hereafter referred to as the July 2019 notice) announcing the voluntary Section 321 Data Pilot. Participants in the Section 321 Data Pilot agree to electronically transmit certain data elements related to de minimis value shipments potentially eligible for release under section 321 of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (“section 321 shipments”). Section 321 provides for an administrative exemption from duty and taxes for shipments of merchandise imported by one person on one day having an aggregate fair retail value in the country of shipment of an amount specified by the Secretary by regulation, but not less than $800. The July 2019 notice provided a description of the Section 321 Data Pilot, the eligibility requirements, and the application process for participation.

The Section 321 Data Pilot is intended to improve CBP’s ability to effectively and efficiently assess the security risks of shipments potentially eligible for release under section 321 of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended, and to improve CBP’s ability to effectively and efficiently assess the security risks of shipments potentially eligible for release under section 321 of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended, and to improve CBP’s ability to effectively and efficiently assess the security risks of shipments potentially eligible for release under section 321 of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended.