



e-BORDERS

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

WHAT IS e-BORDERS?

e-Borders is a key component of the Government's border technology programme, aiming to make the UK safer and speeding up travel for legitimate travellers. The Programme aims to deliver a modern border control which is more secure, effective and efficient.

The purpose of e-Borders is to collect and analyse passenger, service and crew data provided by carriers (air, sea and rail), in respect of all journeys to and from the United Kingdom in advance of travel, supporting an intelligence-led approach to operating border controls.

WHY DO WE NEED e-BORDERS?

Today's world offers unparalleled opportunities for travel. Facilitating legitimate trade and travel is vital to the UK, but creates risks which could be exploited by those intent on illegal activity. The UK Border Agency is determined to secure our border from the threats of international terrorism, crime and illegal immigration.

e-Borders will improve the security, efficiency and effectiveness of the border. It will, in particular:

- be capable of processing rapidly increasing numbers of travellers;
- increasingly making legitimate travel easier, along with use of other technology such as biometric passports, iris and facial recognition systems;
- keep out or monitor individuals that could cause harm;
- maintain a comprehensive travel history allowing us to know who has travelled to the UK, whether as crew or passenger, and when they left; and
- help the UK Border Agency and police target resources more effectively.

HOW DOES e-BORDERS WORK?

Government legislation requires carriers and owner/operators of all vessels due to arrive in or depart from the UK to electronically submit detailed passenger and crew data to the UK Border Agency prior to travel.

This information will be checked against watchlists, analysed and resulting alerts shared with UK border agencies, including police, so that where necessary real-time responses can be put into effect. We will use e-Borders to help stop those who shouldn't be here from even entering the UK – and track down those wanted by law enforcement agencies who try to leave the UK to avoid the judicial process.

WHO HAS TO PROVIDE INFORMATION TO e-BORDERS?

e-Borders will affect all carriers, passengers and crew that travel into and out of the UK. This will include yachts and leisure craft, fishing vessels and private aircraft making international journeys.

It is the legal responsibility of carriers (air, rail and sea) to submit passenger and crew information to the e-Borders operation centre in advance of travel.

e-Borders requires carriers to provide biographical information (name, date of birth, nationality, gender, travel document type, state of issue number and expiry date) relating to a passenger, which is contained in the machine readable zone (MRZ) of a passport.

HOW IS THE INFORMATION COLLECTED?

Data must be provided electronically to e-Borders by the carrier. Some carriers may seek to collect information from passengers in advance, for example, via the internet or ticketing process, rather than at check in. This will be up to the individual carrier and the travel experience should not be

affected. There is no question of passengers having to complete any form of questionnaire at check in.

WILL MY DATA BE SAFE?

Data protection is central to e-Borders. Robust safeguards have been incorporated to ensure that the people's rights are respected, and that their data is processed only when necessary and proportionate. These safeguards ensure that e-Borders use of data complies with the UK Data Protection Act 1998, which implemented EU Directive 95/46/EC into national law.

All information highlighted by the system must be analysed by UK Border Agency and police officers with the appropriate training and security clearance. Alerts on individuals are only issued after expert investigation on a case by case basis. They will not be issued purely on the basis of automated process of passengers.

Only officers with an appropriate level of security clearance will be given access to passenger information. The system will also prevent access if an officer does not have a legitimate reason for accessing information.

All access to USB ports, on computer terminals used to access personal data, has been disabled. Writing of data to optical media and external storage has been restricted to authorised staff members only. Where data is transferred to removable media, it will be encrypted.

For further information on e-Borders data protection legislation, please see the Code of Practice, link:
<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/managingourborders/eborders/codeofpractice/>

WHAT IF I REFUSE TO COMPLY?

Government legislation requires carriers and owner/operators of all vessels due to arrive in or depart from the UK to submit detailed passenger and crew data to the e-Borders system prior to travel. It will be up to individual carriers to ensure compliance. If you refuse to provide the required data when asked to do so by your carrier, they may decline to carry you.

WHAT DOES A TRAVELLER HAVE TO DO?

Travellers will not have to do anything they do not already do – with the possible exception of submitting their passport details and/or other relevant travel documents to the carrier or agent when booking.

e-Borders will have the capability to check **all** travellers and where necessary enable real-time interventions against those travelling on high risk routes. e-Borders will roll-out on a phased, route by route basis, and will capture 95% of passenger and crew movements in and out of the UK by the end of 2010.

CAN I SEE THE DATA YOU HOLD ON ME?

Travellers will have the right to make subject access requests (SAR) under the Data Protection Act to see what personal data we possess and process. Where data is incorrect, the individual has a right to that data being either corrected or removed from the system. Individuals also have the right to make enquiries about e-Borders system under the Freedom of Information Act.

DOES THIS MEAN THE UK BORDER AGENCY WILL BE COUNTING PEOPLE IN AND OUT?

Yes. Alongside other international and UK immigration work, e-Borders is one way of giving us information about who should and shouldn't be here. We will be detecting, detaining and removing those who break the rules.

WHAT HAPPENS IF AN ALERT IS ISSUED?

e-Borders alerts do not necessarily lead to arrests. The UK Border Agency will work closely with the police

and other agencies to take appropriate action based on the intelligence.

HAS e-BORDERS BEEN TESTED?

e-Borders was successfully tested and trialled through a prototype, Project Semaphore. From April 2005 to February 2009, this processed over 82 million passenger movements, generated over 35,000 alerts to border agencies resulting in over 2,900 arrests for crimes including murder, rape and assault and significant counter terrorist interventions. Fraudulently used British passports have been impounded; drugs and tobacco have been confiscated.

DO OTHER COUNTRIES RUN SIMILAR SCHEMES?

An increasing number of countries have already introduced, or are planning to introduce, systems for capturing passenger data, including USA, Canada, Spain, Mexico, China, Japan, Antigua, Barbados, Grenada, Jamaica, St Lucia, Trinidad & Tobago, India, Australia, New Zealand, Cuba and Costa Rica.

WHERE CAN I GET FURTHER INFORMATION?

The UK Border Agency website has information about the border security and immigration work it carries out, including e-Borders. The site can be accessed at: <http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/advance-passenger-information>