

US Border Overflight Exemptions: A How-to Guide

David Mumford
19 August, 2025



Update Aug 2025: BOEs Move to eAPIS (No More Email Applications)

Until now, getting a Border Overflight Exemption (BOE) was an email game. You'd draft up a message to CBP with your operator details, compliance statement, and a few other bits depending on whether it was a new application, renewal, or name change.

That's now changed. **CBP has shifted BOE applications and renewals into the eAPIS web portal.** Instead of emailing back and forth, you log in with your usual eAPIS credentials and hit the new "Border Overflight Exemption" link under the manifest options.

Electronic Advance Passenger Information System

CUSTOMS & BORDER PROTECTION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY



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Private Aviation - Manifest Options

APIS and CBP Permissions are REQUIRED for Both U.S. Departures and Arrivals [\[message detail\]](#)

The Electronic Advance Passenger Information System for Private Aircraft allows authorized users the ability to Submit Notice of Departure and Notice of Arrival manifests to Customs and Border Protection, an agency of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Please select an option below, or Help for assistance.

Your current email address is: **REDACTED**. All DHS response emails will be sent to this email address. If this is not correct, select the **Modify primary account holder information** option under Manage Account, and update your primary contact email address prior to submission of a Notice of Arrival or Departure.

For Private Aviation support, click [here](#)

To submit a Border Overflight Exemption request, [click here](#)

Traveler Options	Manage Account
<p>Select an option below to update or create your crew information or to submit a Notice of Departure or a Notice of Arrival.</p> <p>Update or Create Crew and Pilot Information</p> <p>Create a new "Notice of Departure" and traveler manifest</p> <p>Create a new "Notice of Arrival" and traveler manifest</p> <p>View or Submit from recently submitted manifests</p> <p>View or Submit from saved manifests</p>	<p>Select an option below to manage account information. Visit the Account FAQ to view user account frequently asked questions.</p> <p>Update your password.</p> <p>Modify primary account holder information.</p>

Thanks to the NBAA for this behind-the-scenes screenshot.

CBP says they'll process these within 30 days or less (same as before). Commercial operators still need to add carrier bond info and confirm customs fees are current, but otherwise it's a much smoother process. If you use a handler or third-party provider, they'll continue doing it for you behind the scenes.

New to BOEs? If you're arriving from the south, CBP normally requires your first landing to be at the nearest southern airport of entry. A Border Overflight Exemption lets you bypass that rule and fly straight to the airport you actually want to reach. [More info here](#).

Original Story Sep 2024: BOE Guide

Back in the days when you had to email your BOE requests to CBP and everything was way more painful, we lovingly prepared a 1-page quick-ref cribsheet showing what to do.

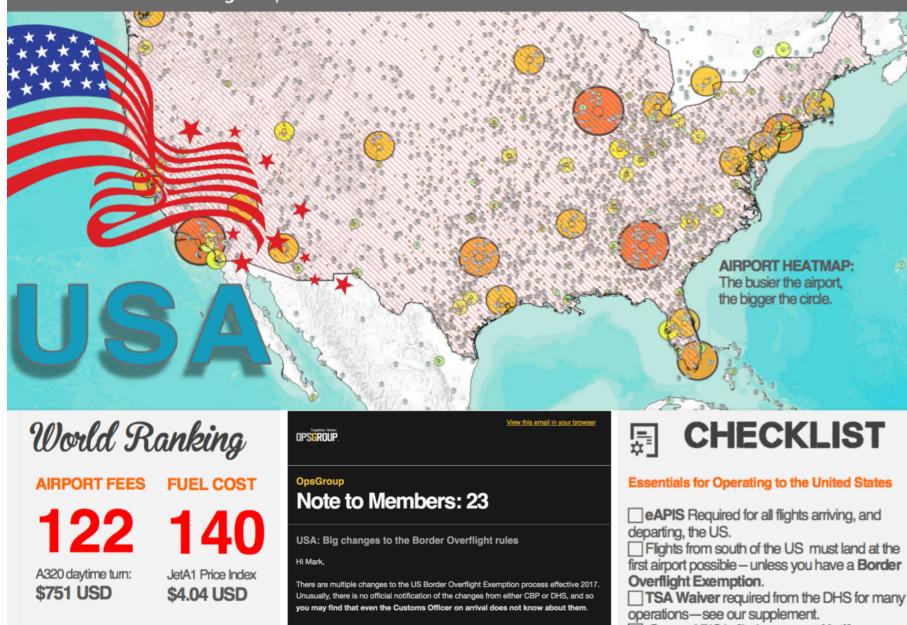


But with the Aug 2025 switch to doing all your BOEing via the eAPIS website, **that guide is now defunct!** We hereby forever consign it to the great FOD bin of history!



Big changes to US Border Overflight Rules

Declan Selleck
19 August, 2025



There are multiple changes to the US Border Overflight Exemption process effective 2017. **Unusually, there is no official notification of the changes** from either CBP or DHS, and so you may find that even the Customs Officer on arrival does not know about them.

The March 2017 changes may be the start of the end for the Border Overflight Exemption, since most requirements from the CBP perspective are transferred to eAPIS: notably, the fact that individual aircraft are no longer listed on the Approval Letter.

We were first alerted to the changes by an OpsGroup member, and have spoken with a lot of different DHS and CBP officials. From these conversations, we've put together our summary of the situation below.

Noteworthy is that at many Airports, the front line CBP officers were not aware of the new rules. CBP have said: "This is new not only to you but to most of the Officers in the field. **Your pilots need to know what it says** because they will be getting questions when they land."

What is a Border Overflight Exemption?

- If you operate a flight to the US from south of the 30th parallel, you must land at the first airport you come to.
- To avoid this, you can apply to CBP for a Border Overflight Exemption (BOE)
- With that in hand, you can fly to any airport with customs.
- So, on to the changes:

Effective March 1st, 2017 :

- A full list of the changes to the process is in **Notes to Members #23** in your OPSGROUP dashboard.
- We recommend you carry this in the aircraft as well, for any CBP official not aware of the new rules.

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