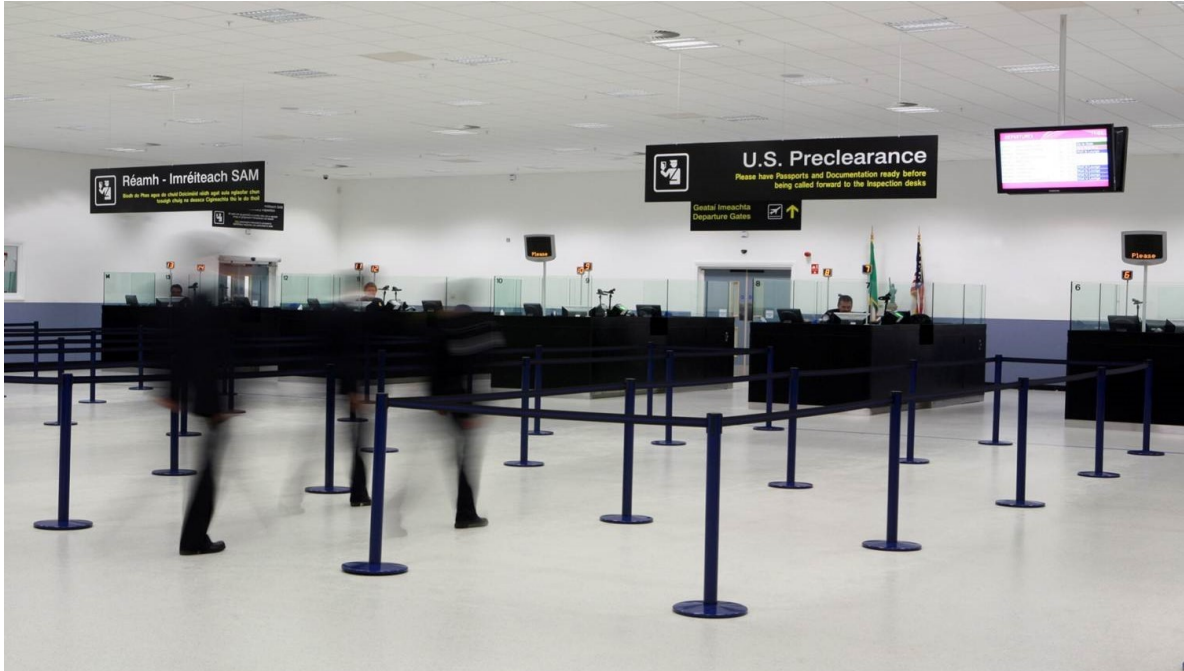


US Pre-Clearance: How does it work?

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12 November, 2024



What is US Customs and Border Protection Pre-Clearance?

This service basically allows aircraft flying from certain approved airports direct to the US to complete their entry procedures at their departure airport – instead of on arrival in the US.

Where can I do it?

If you're a bizav flight (i.e. private or charter), you can only do it at **EINN/Shannon** and **TNCA/Aruba**.

Scheduled airline flights can do it at these airports too:

- **The United Arab Emirates** - OMAA/Abu Dhabi
- **The Bahamas** - MYGF/Freeport or MYNN/Nassau
- **Bermuda** - TXKF/Bermuda
- **Canada** - CYYC/Calgary, CYEG/Edmonton, CYHZ/Halifax, CYUL/Montreal, CYOW/Ottawa, CYYZ/Toronto, CYVR/Vancouver, or CYWG/Winnipeg
- **Ireland** - EIDW/Dublin

Where can I fly to in the US once I've Pre-Cleared?

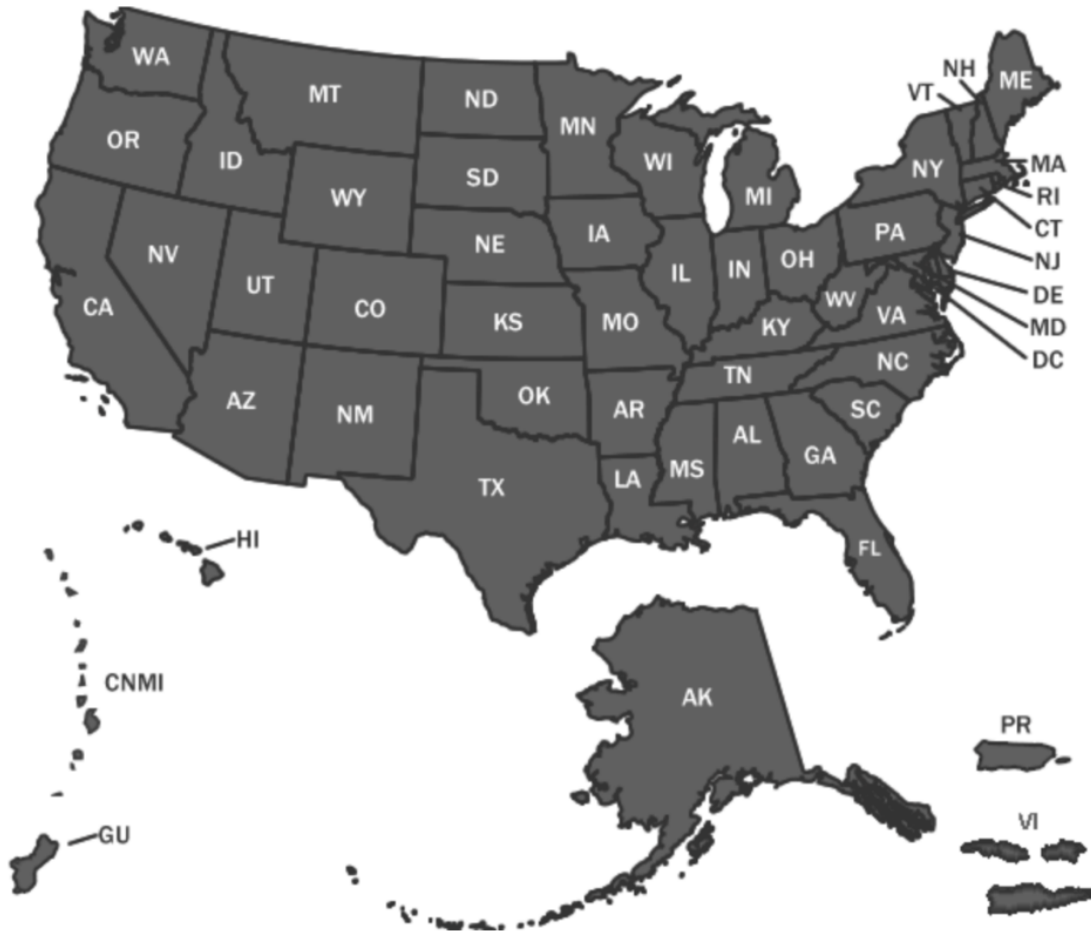
Turns out it's not that easy to find a list of US airports approved for the arrival of Pre-Cleared aircraft. But thanks to Signature FBO at EINN/Shannon, here is a copy:

Airport Code	Description of Airport	City Name	State	USDA Compliance Agreement In Place
KBHM	Birmingham International Airport	Birmingham	Alabama	Y
KDCU	Pryor Field Regional Airport	Decatur	Alabama	Y
KHSV	Huntsville International Airport	Huntsville	Alabama	Y
PANC	Anchorage International Airport (Ted Stevens)	Anchorage	Alaska	Y
PAFA	Fairbanks International Airport	Fairbanks	Alaska	Y
PAKT	Ketchikan International Airport	Ketchikan	Alaska	Y
KIWA	Williams Gateway Airport	Mesa	Arizona	Y
KPHX	Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport	Phoenix	Arizona	Y
KTUS	Tucson International Airport	Tucson	Arizona	Y
KNYL	Yuma International Airport	Yuma	Arizona	Y
KLIT	Adams Field Airport	Little Rock	Arkansas	Y
KROG	Rogers Municipal Airport	Rogers	Arkansas	Y
KCRQ	McClellan-Palomar Airport	Carlsbad	California	Y
KSUU	Travis Air Force Base	Fairfield	California	Y
KFAT	Fresno Yosemite International Airport	Fresno	California	Y
KLAX	Los Angeles International Airport	Los Angeles	California	Y
KNUQ	Moffett Federal Airfield	Mountain View	California	Y
KOAK	Oakland International Airport	Oakland	California	Y
KPSP	Palm Springs International Airport	Palm Springs	California	Y
KMCC	McClellan Air Force Base	Sacramento	California	Y
KBAB	Beale Air Force Base	Sacramento	California	Y
KSMF	Sacramento International Airport	Sacramento	California	Y
KSAN	San Diego International Airport (Lindbergh Field)	San Diego	California	Y
KSFO	San Francisco International Airport	San Francisco	California	Y
KSJC	Mineta San Jose International Airport	San Jose	California	Y
KVNY	Van Nuys Airport	Van Nuys	California	Y

Click for PDF.

Finding a list of US International Airports of Entry is pretty easy, just go to the CBP website and use their interactive map. But it's worth noting that **not all US International Airports of Entry are on the list of those approved to accept Pre-Cleared flights**, due to lack of agriculture agreements, and/or local CBP agreements there.

To find a Port of Entry in your state, please click on the map.



[Click for CBP website.](#)

How does Pre-Clearance work in reality?

US CBP has published this guide on exactly **how the Pre-Clearance service works**, but here's the lowdown:

1. **Request the service with CBP** - Get in touch with CBP telling them that you want to do it! Pass them a bunch of information - details about the flight, passengers and crew. You can do this step through your ground handler (recommended).
2. **Submit APIS** - Slightly tricky here, because for Pre-Clearance you have to submit this no less than one hour before the scheduled Pre-Clearance processing time itself, rather than the departure time from the Pre-Clearance airport. For example, you want to fly from EINN-KALB at 2pm, and you've got your Pre-Clearance set up for 1pm, so that means you need to file your APIS no later than 12pm!
3. **Pre-Clearance approval** - US CBP will email notice of approval, including the appointment confirmation number.
4. **The Pre-Clearance procedure** - When you arrive at the Pre-Clearance airport, CBP will conduct the same procedures as if you were at an airport in the US. Travelers and luggage are screened and the aircraft is inspected.
5. **Departure** - Crew, passengers and luggage board the aircraft, and off you go. (And remember

- no opening of any aircraft doors from this point before departure!) The kindly CBP chaps you've just dealt with will zap your info across to their counterparts at whichever US airport you're flying to, so everything should be nice and smooth on arrival.

6. **Arrival** - Upon arrival in the US, bag up your garbage for CBP to collect. Note that if you have to land somewhere other than where you said you'd be landing in your APIS, Pre-Clearance approval will be voided and you'll have to go through the normal entry process.

Remember, if you're a bizav flight, you can only do Pre-Clearance at EINN/Shannon Airport or TNCA/Aruba. So here's some info specific to both of these airports...

Pre-Clearance at EINN/Shannon

One of the FBOs there is **Signature Aviation**, and they have provided a summary of what you can expect when you Pre-Clear, with a few more details than the basic summary above. You can download the PDF here, but key points are: you must give 24hrs notice, and the CBP office opening hours are 0900-1700 local each day with out of hours available between 0700-0900 and 1700-2100 local. You can contact them at snn@signatureflight.ie.

Pre-Clearance at TNCA/Aruba

Jet TNCA is the only FBO at Aruba, and they can provide Pre-Clearance to bizav flights. They need 24hrs notice, it costs \$315, and CBP there are open from 0930-1100 and 1530-1700 local time each day (not available on afternoons at weekends). You can find more info here, and contact them at ops@jet-tnca.com.

A note on the US Virgin Islands

Technically, airports in the Virgin Islands "offer" this service too, but it's not really Pre-Clearance in the same sense as at EINN and TNCA - here it's actually more of a requirement than an optional extra. The US CBP say the following:

For flights leaving the USVI enroute to other United States locations, GA aircraft operators are required to contact CBP in the USVI prior to departure. Aircraft cannot be moved from the U.S. Virgin Islands to other U.S. locations until CBP Agriculture Specialists (CBPAS) have:

- *had the opportunity to inspect the aircraft;*
- *crew, and passengers; and*
- *the CBPAS has provided clearance for departure from the USVI.*

Standard Aviation FBO at TIST/St Thomas say that Customs requires a minimum notice of 2hrs in advance of the appointment time. Appointments are available 7 days a week from 0800-1630 local, and it costs \$250. Contact them at ops@sa-stt.com.