

Frequently Asked Questions

CBP Private and Non-scheduled Commercial Aircraft Preclearance Programs at Shannon Airport

Q: When did U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) begin private aircraft preclearance processing at Shannon Airport?

A: CBP opened the first private aircraft preclearance facility at Shannon Airport on March 1, 2010. It expanded processing in this facility to non-scheduled commercially chartered aircraft on June 1, 2010.

Q: What is a preclearance inspection?

A: A preclearance inspection is essentially the same inspection a traveler would experience at a U.S. port of entry, but is completed on foreign soil. CBP operates 14 preclearance airport locations in Canada, Aruba, Bermuda, the Bahamas and Ireland.

Q: What is preclearance of private aircraft?

A: CBP expanded its operations beyond preclearing only scheduled commercial travelers in Shannon, Ireland, to include the processing of flights that qualify as private aircraft under 19 CFR 122.1(h). This program includes inspections of all travelers, their personal articles and the examination of aircraft. *All laws and regulations for entering the United States apply.*

Q: How does this new program apply to chartered aircraft?

A: The majority of conditions established for the private aircraft also apply to non-scheduled commercial flights. Preclearance of chartered aircraft must be requested 48 hours in advance, and is approved on a case-by-case basis.

Q: Will this program include any other types of aircraft processing?

A: No. The United States-Ireland Preclearance Agreement does not provide for the preclearance of public aircraft or cargo.

Q: Who can be precleared?

A: All travelers meeting the normal documentary requirements for entering the United States on private and chartered aircraft will be inspected. Only *signatory carriers* are eligible to transport Visa Waiver Program applicants.

Q: Can animals be precleared in Ireland?

A: The only animals eligible to be precleared are pet dogs, cats and birds originating from Ireland. They must be accompanied by a health certificate that includes rabies vaccination information and be free of sickness or other anomalies. Passengers with live birds must have a completed Veterinary Services (VS) permit and must have scheduled an inspection of the bird by Veterinary Services at the port of destination. The permit, VS Form 17-135, must accompany the bird at time of inspection.

Q: What are CBP's operating hours for private and charter aircraft at Shannon?

A: CBP processes these aircraft at Shannon Airport from Sunday through Friday between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. (local time), with last requests for service accepted at 6 p.m. Processing on Saturday is from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., with the last requests accepted at 2 p.m.

Q: What are program conditions of eligibility for preclearance?

A: Private pilots and non-scheduled commercial carriers, or their representatives, must:

- Request and be approved preclearance services: 24 hours in advance for private; 48 hours in advance for charters;
- Have a valid user fee decal for the aircraft (unless not required);
- Comply with USDA requirements for handling of regulated garbage * at the U.S. destination airport;
- Submit an electronic manifest (APIS) no later than 60 minutes prior to *inspection start time*;
- Present travelers, all baggage and aircraft for inspection in the CBP facility;
- Ensure servicing of the aircraft is conducted prior to its physical CBP inspection;
- Immediate departure upon completion of CBP inspection;
- Compliance with other CBP requirements as indicated.

Q: How do I request preclearance services from CBP in Shannon, Ireland?

A: Requests are made by calling or 061-771946** within Ireland, or international 011-353-61-771946** . Private aircraft pilots or representatives must request services no later than 24 hours in advance of the intended *inspection start time* and prior to the close of local CBP business hours the previous day. Non-scheduled commercial pilots or representatives must request services not later than 48 hours of the inspection start time.

Q: Where can aircraft land in the United States after being precleared at Shannon?

A: A list of CBP approved airports, in addition to other details on private aircraft processing, is available at www.cbp.gov.

Q: Where can I get information about Shannon Airport?

A: Please visit www.shannonairport.com.

Q: Will CBP offer preclearance services for private and charter flights at other locations?

A: The United States is currently reviewing the potential for future expansion of these types of programs to other CBP preclearance locations, such as in Aruba and Bermuda.

* Regulated garbage also means meals and other food items that are available for consumption by passengers and crew on the aircraft but are not consumed.

**This line only takes requests for preclearance services; *this is not a CBP information line*.