



Governor Janet Napolitano

# State of Arizona Department of Homeland Security



Director Leesa Berens Morrison

January 27, 2008  
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## **DOCUMENTS NEEDED TO CROSS BORDER BY LAND AND SEA BEGINNING JANUARY 31, 2008**

Arizona Department of Homeland Security (AZDOHS) wants to remind travelers that beginning this Thursday, January 31, 2008, strict guidelines go into effect for U.S. Citizens crossing the border. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced the change this month ending a traveler's ability to state verbally their country of citizenship. Travelers will need to show proof of citizenship and identity before returning to the United States.

"It's important to notify all travelers of the change before they leave the country," said Arizona Department of Homeland Security Director Leesa Berens Morrison. "Our main concern is Arizonans are able to return to the U.S. when they're ready. That means they must be prepared when they leave." DHS warns that unprepared travelers may be delayed while U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) attempts to verify their identity and citizenship.

Starting January 31<sup>st</sup>, citizens will be asked to present documentation from an [approved list](#) before being allowed to return to the country. An example of acceptable identification for someone 19 years or older would be a driver's license and a birth certificate. Children ages 18 and younger need only present a birth certificate. If you need a copy of your birth certificate, those born in Arizona can contact the Arizona Department of Health Services, [http://www.azdhs.gov/vitalrcd/birth\\_index.htm](http://www.azdhs.gov/vitalrcd/birth_index.htm).

Director Leesa Berens Morrison was appointed by Governor Janet Napolitano to head The Arizona Department of Homeland Security in December 2006. The Director oversees the development of the state's homeland security strategy. The department requests, receives and distributes all Federal Homeland Security grants. The Arizona Legislature created AZDOHS in 2006 to enhance the ability of the state to prevent and respond to acts of terrorism and other critical hazards.

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