



### Q1: What is EES?

A1: The EU Entry/Exit System (EES) is an automated border management system that will digitally record the entries and exits of most non-EU nationals travelling to 29 European countries, (the Schengen Area), for short stays. EES will capture biometric data, such as fingerprints, facial image, and other travel information, gradually replacing the current system of passport stamping.

EES will automatically identify travelers that have stayed more than 90 days in any 180-day period, possibly resulting in entry denial or forced exit.

U.S. government officials are engaging with the EU, NATO Allies, and partners to obtain exemptions from EES for DoD members of the force and civilian component, their dependents, and contractors (hereafter referred to collectively as "DoD personnel") assigned temporarily or permanently in a country of the Schengen Area. Such exemptions would be consistent with the longstanding privileges and practice established under the NATO SOFA and applicable defense agreements.

DoD personnel should always consult the Electronic Foreign Clearance Guide to obtain the latest information regarding travel requirements (Common Access Card required).  
<https://apacs.milcloud.mil/fcg/fcg.cfm>

### Q2: When will EES be implemented?

A2: From October 12, 2025, countries in the Schengen Area will start introducing the EES gradually over the course of six months. During this time, border authorities will progressively register the data of most third country nationals crossing the borders. At the end of this period, the EES will be fully deployed at all border crossing points.

### Q3: What countries will be using EES?

A3: Twenty-nine (29) countries within the Schengen Area will use EES:

Austria	Greece	Norway
Belgium	Hungary	Poland
Bulgaria	Iceland	Portugal
Croatia	Italy	Romania
Czechia	Latvia	Slovakia
Denmark	Liechtenstein	Slovenia
Estonia	Lithuania	Spain
Finland	Luxembourg	Sweden
France	Malta	Switzerland
Germany	Netherlands	

### Q4: I am a U.S. Department of Defense service member and have always just used my ID card and orders instead of a passport for official travel to NATO countries. Will that still be the case under EES?

A4: Yes. EU officials have assured the United States that U.S. members of the force traveling for official purposes to a NATO country with their DoD-issued identification card and orders will be exempt from EES. Members of the force should not present a passport for official travel to a NATO country.



**Q5: Will U.S. Department of Defense service members on leave (not official travel) still be exempt from the EES requirements?**

A5: The U.S. position is that U.S. members of the force assigned temporarily or permanently to a NATO country are not subject to EES, even for leave travel. U.S. government officials are engaging with the EU, NATO Allies, and partners to ensure the EU issues guidance to member states consistent with this position.

DoD personnel who are not assigned temporarily or permanently to a NATO country are subject to EES when they travel to any of the Schengen Area countries on leave.

**Q6: How will EES affect civilian employees, dependents, and contractors?**

A6: The U.S. position is that U.S. members of the civilian component, dependents, and contractors assigned temporarily or permanently to a NATO country are also not subject to EES. U.S. government officials are engaging with the EU, NATO Allies, and partners to ensure the EU issues guidance to the Schengen Area countries consistent with this position.

**Q7: What can I do now to be prepared for EES implementation?**

A7:

- Ensure all official identification documents for you and your dependents are valid. Renew passports that will expire within six months.
- Take all identification and official travel documents with you when you travel. Present the appropriate identification and documents consistent with the U.S. position stated above. Please note there may be delays and confusion regarding early stages of implementation resulting in requests for further documentation.
- Plan for longer processing times upon entry into the Schengen Area. Give yourself plenty of time to make any follow-on connections.
- Always check the Electronic Foreign Clearance Guide for the most up-to-date travel requirements.

**Q8: How will the EES work? What is new during the border checks?**

A8:

*If you are on leave travel that is not exempt from EES requirements and arriving at a border crossing point for leave travel for the first time following implementation of the EES:*

- You will have to provide your personal data. Border officials will scan your fingerprints, take a photo, and collect other information that will be recorded in a digital file.
- A passport is required.
  - In principle, both biometric and non-biometric passports will be accepted when crossing the borders, if valid and all the other entry conditions are fulfilled.
  - You only need a biometric passport if you want to use automated ways to cross the borders ("self-service systems"), which are available at certain border crossing points.



- During the six-month implementation phase, border officials will both register travelers in EES and stamp passports. Passports will not be stamped after this period.
- As Schengen Area countries transition to full traveler registration, border procedures may vary. Travelers could be registered upon arrival, departure, or not at all during this phase. Once the system is fully implemented, registration will become mandatory for all travelers.
- This process can be quicker if you register some of your data in advance. You can do this by using:
  - the dedicated equipment ("self-service system"), if available at your border crossing point; and/or
  - a mobile application - if made available by the country of arrival or departure.
- In any of the instances above, you will still meet a passport control officer to complete the processing.

If you have crossed the borders of the European countries using the EES more than once since the EES started:

- Your biometric information will already be recorded in the EES.
- The passport control officers will only verify your fingerprints and photo, which will take less time. In rare cases, it may be necessary to collect and record your data again.
- With your passport, you will be able to enter more quickly using the self-service system (if available at that border crossing point). If your digital file is clear of any impediments to travel, you will usually not need to interact with a passport control officer.
- Please be aware that all other conditions for entry or exit remain valid and passport control officers may, at any time, take measures as necessary, such as collecting additional information or photos.

### For more information, check out these official sites

Electronic Foreign Clearance Guide: <https://apacs.milcloud.mil/fcg/fcg.cfm>

EU Entry/Exit System (EES) website: [https://travel-europe.europa.eu/ees\\_en](https://travel-europe.europa.eu/ees_en)

U.S. State Department travel site: <https://www.state.gov/travelers/>

U.S. EUCOM website: <https://www.eucom.mil/staff-resources/quarterly-updates-for-personnel-and-dependents>