



Pre-Arrival Readiness Evaluation (PARE) at the Peace Bridge

The Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, serves as the frontline defense for the United States. CBP is implementing a new, biometric facial comparison capability to verify traveler identities within the inbound commercial truck preclearance area at the Buffalo, New York, land port of entry.

Commercial truck drivers and their passengers leaving Canada and entering the United States across the Peace Bridge in Buffalo will have their photograph taken to verify biometrically their identity and expedite their processing into the United States. The new process automates existing identity verification procedures at the port of entry.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Why is the Buffalo and Fort Erie Public Bridge Authority partnering with CBP on PARE?

PARE is intended to decrease processing times for commercial trucks passing through CBP inspection. Increased inspection efficiencies will help the authority better manage all traffic flowing across the Peace Bridge.

Q: Why is CBP participating in PARE?

CBP is introducing facial matching capabilities to meet Congressional mandates on biometrically identifying foreign nationals entering and departing the United States, and to help automate the existing traveler identity verification process. Automated traveler identity verification enables CBP officers to focus on inspections instead of manual data entry and analysis.

Q: Are U.S. citizens required to provide facial images for this biometric entry project?

Yes. The authority is requiring all commercial truck drivers and their passengers leaving Canada across the Peace Bridge to participate in PARE. The authority then shares the photographs it takes on the Canadian side with CBP. All travelers are subject to identity and document verification when entering the United States.



How is my privacy protected if I have my picture taken?

CBP has taken a number of proactive measures to protect your information and privacy. Photos provided by the authority may be stored in secure DHS systems consistent with existing laws and processes. The DHS and CBP privacy officers continually review this program to ensure compliance with applicable federal privacy laws and regulations as well as best practices in privacy and information security. More information is available at www.dhs.gov/privacy-impact-assessments. Click on “CBP” on the left and then “DHS/CBP/PIA-056 Traveler Verification Service.”

How long will CBP retain my photo?

CBP will store these photos for one year beyond the duration of the pilot test (9 months) so that CBP may conduct an evaluation of the PARE project.

How does CBP ensure the accuracy of the facial comparison technology?

CBP continuously monitors performance of the biometric system and conducts a variety of statistical tests. CBP is also collaborating with the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to perform an independent and comprehensive scientific analysis of CBP’s operational face-matching performance, including impacts of traveler demographics and image quality.

What happens if my identity cannot be verified via biometric facial comparison?

If a traveler’s identity cannot be biometrically verified, then they will be processed per existing standard inspection procedures.

Where can I obtain more information?

For more information on the facial comparison process, how data is safeguarded, permissible data sharing, and photo retention, please visit www.cbp.gov/biometrics or www.dhs.gov/privacy, or contact the CBP Call Center at 1-877-CBP-5511 (outside the U.S., call 202-325-8000).