



Flying Non-Stop to the United States?

Learn More About U.S. Preclearance at
Halifax Stanfield International Airport

All non-stop U.S. bound passengers travelling from Halifax Stanfield International Airport use the **U.S. PRECLEARANCE FACILITY**. This facility, located at the far (north) end of the terminal building (see above photo), allows non-stop U.S. bound passengers to go through U.S. Customs and Border Protection prior to their departure. Following are frequently asked questions about U.S. preclearance.

1. What is U.S. preclearance?

- U.S. preclearance allows non-stop U.S. bound passengers to go through U.S. Customs and Border Protection here in Halifax **before** they depart for their flight, instead of upon arrival at their destination city. This means that they arrive in the United States as domestic passengers – they don't have to wait in line to clear customs in the U.S., which makes for more convenient travel planning and easier connections.
- However, if travelling to the United States, but stopping elsewhere in Canada **first** (say, Toronto), passengers will use the domestic check-in, pre-board security screening, and departure areas.

2. What are the benefits of U.S. preclearance?

- Easier, more convenient connections for travelers.
- Opens up routes to U.S. airports that don't currently have customs facilities.
- Encourages travel and trade between the Atlantic region and large markets in the United States.

3. What items can you take on board these flights?

- The same restrictions apply on these flights as apply on domestic flights, or flights to the U.K. That is: no gels, liquids, aerosols, etc. For more information on what can be taken on board aircraft visit the Canadian Air Transport Security Authority's web site at catsa-acsta.gc.ca.

4. What is the process at Halifax?

- Non-stop U.S. bound passengers should make their way to the north end of the terminal building – that is the far left end of the terminal building (see above photo). Simply follow the signs displaying the American flag in and around the terminal building.
- Once in the north end of the terminal building:
 - Ascend the twin escalators to the second level
 - Proceed to ticket counter and check baggage
 - Go through pre-board security screening
 - Proceed to U.S. Customs and Border Protection
 - Once cleared, proceed to departure gate and arrive in the U.S. as a domestic passenger
 - Passengers should allow at least 2 hours for this process or check with their airline for more details

5. What are the hours of operation?

- U.S. Customs and Border Protection open at 5 a.m. and all passengers must be processed through by 4:30 p.m. (regardless of your flight departure time).

6. What amenities are in this facility?

- The U.S. preclearance facility offers many of the same features as in the current departures area including a full-service restaurant, coffee kiosk, and a gift shop.

7. What is the process for Connecting Passengers?

Passengers:

- Passengers connecting in Halifax to a non-stop U.S. bound flight gain access to the U.S. preclearance facility by a connecting corridor near Gate 23. Passengers will be processed through pre-board security screening there, then through U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

Baggage:

- Baggage for connecting passengers will be handled in one of two ways. If your connecting flight is with the same airline or partner airline (for example Air Canada and Air Canada Jazz) then your baggage will automatically be checked through to your final U.S. destination. You will not have to claim your baggage prior to the screening process, as at other airports.
- If you are connecting to another airline, then you will proceed to the regular domestic arrivals area, claim your baggage, then take the escalator or elevator up to the U.S. preclearance area. Passengers with bags then proceed to the U.S. preclearance check-in counters to have their bags tagged, then proceed to the connecting baggage drop off point. All passengers with boarding passes then proceed to pre-board security screening and U.S. Customs and Border Protection.
- **Passengers should ask the ticket agent at their original departure point about the process for their baggage.**

