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Version 7.22



Note: To get the skinny on how U.S. passports are made and secured, we spoke with representatives from the U.S. Department of State, the International Civilian Aviation Organization (ICAO), and a hacker who specializes in bypassing the security of radio frequency devices. Written by Seamus Bellamy AFAR Air Travel News 3/16/2018

Passport Q&A

RFID Passport emblem

What information is stored on a passport RFID chip?

Open your passport book up to the data page with your photo on it. See the information there? This same information is what's stored on a passport book RFID chip. You'll also find that the chip contains biometric information of the passport's owner and a cryptographic signature that permits border officials from the Department of Homeland Security to verify that the passport hasn't been tampered with or altered in any way. That's it.

Are U.S. Customs & Border Patrol agents the only ones who can read this information?

Nope. The U.S. Department of State's public key infrastructure is shared with 52 other nations so that they can verify, when a passport is used at their borders, that the information on the chip has not been altered in any way.

Yes. hackers read the information broadcast by a passport's RFID chip.

RFID protected Personal cases and "Go Bags", (formerly known as money belts) are the best and easiest protection for passports, debit cards and credit cards.

How to use your "GO BAG"

Be prepared for:

Terrorism, Strikes, Community unrest and natural disasters

- ☐ NEVER leave your "RFID protected money belt "Go Bag" in the hotel or place you are staying
- ☐ Place under your outer clothing
- ☐ USE your Personal Day Bag as you go out touring.
- ☐ Think weather protection according to season.
- ☐ If I need to get out of the country what are my **"Must Haves"**?
- ☐ Medication needs
- ☐
- ☐