



March 11, 2011

Number 11-001

Port of Columbus Pipeline

TO: International Carriers and Aircraft Operators, Travel Industry Personnel, and other Interested Parties

SUBJECT: Documentary Requirements for Persons Entering and Departing the United States

Anyone seeking entry into the United States of America, whether a United States (U.S.) citizen, a U.S. resident or a visitor to the U.S. must have in his/her possession documentation of identity and nationality. In addition, each traveler must be in possession of proper documentation for the purpose of his/her travel. U.S. law provides that transportation carriers may be liable for improperly documented passengers brought to the U.S.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has developed the Carrier Liaison Program (CLP) and publishes a variety of publications to assist commercial carriers to become more effective in identifying improperly documented passengers destined to the U.S. The purpose of this pipeline is to inform and remind commercial carriers to the various compliance tools available, including guides, bulletins, technical assistance, and informed compliance postings on the CBP website.

Carrier Liaison Program

The CLP was developed to enhance border security by helping commercial carriers to become more effective in identifying improperly documented passengers destined to the U.S. The primary method for accomplishing this mission is by providing technical assistance and training to carrier staff.

- **Carrier Information Guide** – The CBP Carrier Information Guide is designed to serve as a reference aid for travel industry personnel. It outlines the various documentary requirements that apply to persons entering or departing the U.S. Carrier personnel are urged to familiarize themselves with all sections of the publication and reference it in their examination of travel documents. The Carrier Information Guide is available in 10 languages available on the CBP website at http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/travel/inspections_carriers_facilities/carrier_info_guide/.
- **Carrier Liaison Program Bulletins** – CLP Bulletins are published to inform the travel industry of new and revised travel document and entry requirements. The Carrier Information Guide is periodically revised to include these revisions and updates. CBP will publish a revised 2011 Carrier Information Guide this summer. Current CLP Bulletins are

available on the CBP website at http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/travel/inspections_carriers_facilities/clp/bulletins/.

- **Regional Carrier Liaison Groups** – Regional Carrier Liaison Groups (RCLG) have been created by CBP to assist carriers with questions regarding U.S. entry related matters. The RCLG phone center was developed to provide real-time entry requirements and document validity advice to carriers worldwide.

RCLGs have been established in Miami, New York and Honolulu and are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. This service is available to all carriers worldwide for any flight destined to the United States. Service areas and telephone numbers for each RCLG are listed below.

<u>RCLG</u>	<u>Service Area</u>	<u>Telephone Number</u>
Miami	Latin America, Caribbean	305-874-5444
New York	Europe, Africa, Middle East	718-553-1783
Honolulu	Asia, Pacific Rim	808-237-4632

Other Documentary Requirements Guidance on CBP Website

CBP posts a variety of informed compliance materials on its website to assist commercial carriers with documentary requirements for persons entering the U.S. Included among these postings is guidance on the Visa Waiver Program (VWP), Electronic Systems Travel Authorization (ESTA), and many other programs. Detailed information on these programs is available at http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/travel/inspections_carriers_facilities/.

Frequently Asked Questions at the Port of Columbus

- **Automatic Revalidation** – Automatic revalidation applies to expired nonimmigrant visas of aliens who have been out of the U.S. for 30 days or less in a contiguous country (Canada and Mexico). Subject to the requirements listed below, the validity of an expired non-immigrant visa issued under the Immigration and Naturalization Act (INA) 101(a)(15) may be considered to be automatically extended to the date of application for readmission. Such aliens may apply for readmission in the same classification or in a new classification authorized by DHS prior to their departure.

Automatic revalidation is applicable only in the case of a nonimmigrant alien who:

- Is in possession of a Form I-94, Arrival-Departure Record, endorsed by DHS to show an unexpired period of initial admission or extension of stay;
- Is applying for readmission after an absence not exceeding 30 days solely in a contiguous territory, or in the case of a student or exchange visitor or accompanying spouse or child, after an absence not exceeding 30 days in a contiguous territory or adjacent islands other than Cuba;
- Has maintained and intends to resume nonimmigrant status;

- Is in possession of a valid passport;
- Does not require authorization for admission under INA 212(d)(3); and
- Has not applied for a new visa while abroad.

Specific rules and requirements for the readmission of aliens with expired F, J, M, and Q visas are outlined in 8 CFR 214.1(b) . Automatic revalidation does not apply to the Visa Waiver Program (VWP). Further information on automatic revalidation is available in 22 CFR 41.112(d) and an Automatic Revalidation Fact Sheet on the CBP website.

- **Visa Waiver Program Readmission** – An alien admitted to the U.S. under the provisions of the VWP may be readmitted to the U.S. after a departure to a foreign contiguous territory or adjacent island for the balance of his or her original VWP admission period if he or she is otherwise admissible and meets all the conditions of the VWP with the exception of arrival on a signatory carrier.

In 2010, CBP transitioned to paperless processing for VWP travelers arriving by air or sea. If admitted under the new automated process, the CBP officer will stamp the applicant's passport with a U.S. admission stamp and annotate it with the class of admission WT/WB and date admitted until.

Additional information on the VWP readmission is available on the CBP website at http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/travel/id_visa/business_pleasure/vwp/ and in 8 CFR 217. VWP readmission is specifically addressed in 8 CFR 217.3(b)

For further information or questions pertaining to this pipeline, please contact Craig L. Vette at 614-497-1865, ext. 115.

[signed]
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Port Director

DISCLAIMER: This material is intended to provide guidance. Recognizing that many complicated factors are involved in Customs and Border Protection matters, an importer may wish to obtain a binding ruling under 19 CFR Part 177. Reliance solely on this information may not be considered reasonable care. Importers are referred to Treasury Decision 97-96, which was published in the Federal Register of December 4, 1997, and in the Customs Bulletin of December 17, 1997, for in-depth information on the concept of reasonable care.