

AUTOMATIC VISA REVALIDATION

Automatic revalidation is a limited exception to the requirement that all nonimmigrants have valid visa stamps in the nonimmigrant category of their proposed admission.

Under USCIS and Department of State regulations, nonimmigrants who are departing the United States for not more than 30 days to travel only to Mexico or Canada (or in some cases, also “adjacent islands”), and who are:

- not nationals or citizens of Iran, Syria, Sudan, and Cuba;
- not applicants for a visa at a U.S. Consulate; or
- not Canadian permanent residents (landed immigrants) who do not yet have a U.S. nonimmigrant visa in their passports;

are eligible for “automatic revalidation”.

Such nonimmigrants are not required to surrender their original Form I-94, and may instead provide a photocopy of the Form I-94 upon leaving the U.S. and are admissible even if they do not have a valid visa stamp when applying for readmission into the U.S. Such nonimmigrants can use the Form I-94 together with the following documents:

- F-1s and dependents must have a Form I-20 ID and properly endorsed Form I-20 A-B;
- J-1s and dependents must have a valid DS-2019 (formerly known as IAP-66) showing date of expiration of stay;
- H-1Bs, L-1s, or O-1s and dependents must have a Form I-797 Approval Notice with new I-94, if applicable. Note that those in H, L, or O status cannot use this exception to travel to adjacent islands, only to Canada or Mexico.

Adjacent islands are defined as Anguilla, Antigua, Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, Barbuda, Bermuda, Bonaire, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Cuba, Curacao, Dominica, the Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Haiti, Jamaica, Marie-Galante, Martinique, Miquelon, Montserrat, Saba, Saint Barthelemy, Saint Christopher, Saint Eustatius, Saint Kitts-Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Maarten, Saint Martin, Saint Pierre, Saint Vincent and Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands, and other British, French and Netherlands territory or possessions bordering on the Caribbean Sea.