

TRAVEL CHECKLIST

Rules to Follow for Every Admission to the United States

- □ Employees: When entering the United States, always present your current employer's Form I-797 (Approval Notice) to the CBP (U.S. Customs and Border Protection) officer along with your valid passport and nonimmigrant visa stamp (unless you are a visa-exempt Canadian citizen). If you also have a Form I-797 for an extension approved for a future period, present that as well; however, note that in this situation, you might only be admitted to the expiration of your current Form I-797 Approval Notice. If you hold H-1B status and have an H-1B transfer petition pending, you should also present the Form I-797 receipt for your new H-1B employer; however, note that in this situation, you will only be admitted to the expiration of your prior H-1B petition. Dependents: Present your spouse/parent's current Form I-797 approval notice, unless you have your own approval notice, and your visa (unless you are a visa-exempt Canadian).
- □ The CBP officer will create an electronic Form I-94 Arrival/Departure record for your entry upon admitting you into the U.S., which you can retrieve from the CBP website: http://www.cbp.gov/i94. In many cases, CBP will no longer physically stamp your passport nor issue you a paper Form I-94. If you desire issuance of a passport stamp and/or paper Form I-94, you must request to be referred to "secondary inspection." After you enter the U.S., retrieve your electronic I-94 record from the CBP website, and verify that you were admitted in the proper status and verify that the expiration date on your I-94 record is the same as the "valid to" date on your latest Form I-797 approval notice.
- □ After each entry into the U.S., provide Jackson & Hertogs with a copy of your new Form I-94, and visa stamp if you received a new one on this trip, for yourself and any applicable dependents. **NOTE:** You can only access your current I-94 record from the CBP website while you are in the U.S.; once you depart, your arrival/departure information will update, and the I-94 information for the current period of admission becomes unavailable.
- ☐ If the Form I-797 and I-94 expiration dates are not the same, contact your Jackson & Hertogs attorney immediately this could either be a CBP error that must be corrected, or it could be an appropriate shortening of your authorized status in the U.S. (e.g., due to passport expiration date). Note that in some cases, CBP will add a 10-day grace period to the end validity date listed on the Form I-797. The grace period is not work-authorized.
- □ Your passport should be valid for at least six months beyond the expiration date shown on the Form I-797 (Approval Notice), both at the time that you apply for your visa at a U.S. Consulate/Embassy, and on the date of your admission to the U.S. For nationals of certain countries (including India, France, Germany, the U.K. and Japan), this requirement is modified to require passport validity until the expiration date on the Form I-797. For a complete list of countries see: https://fam.state.gov/FAM/09FAM/09FAM/04309.html#M403 9 3 B.

NOTE: If your passport is valid for less than six months beyond your Form I-797 date when you apply to enter the U.S., the CBP officer may admit you only to your passport expiration date; if this occurs, your Form I-94 record will be limited to the shorter period of admission. This means your status will expire *before* the expiration date listed on the latest Form I-797. If you remain in the U.S. beyond the date listed on the I-94 record, you will overstay your authorized stay, and will be unlawfully present in the United States. It is important that you carefully review your I-94 record <u>after every admission</u>, and contact our office if the date the I-94 expires earlier than the I-797 date. **Periods of unlawful presence will result in cancellation of all valid visas in your passport, and depending on duration, can result in you being barred admission to the United States, and/or complications with future visa petitions.**

Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) biometric entry tracking system applies to most foreign nationals with limited exceptions (e.g., Canadian visitors, children under the age of 14, and persons over the age of 79). Depending on the port of entry, foreign nationals may also be subject to exit tracking and/or Customs & Border Protection (CBP)'s Traveler Verification Service (TVS) facial comparison service.



Obligation to Carry Evidence of Registration in the United States

Under U.S. immigration law, foreign nationals are required to carry evidence of "registration" at all times. Therefore, we suggest that you carry photo identification, your current valid I-94 record, and your valid I-797 at all times. This is especially advisable when you are traveling within the United States. If your I-94 record is expired but you have a pending request for extension of status, you should carry a copy of your Form I-797 receipt.

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Automatic Revalidation

- □ For foreign nationals subject to the visa stamp requirement: under the "automatic revalidation" rule (AVR), if you are traveling only to Canada/Mexico for 30 days or less and will not apply for a new visa stamp at a U.S. Consulate/Embassy, you can opt to return to the U.S. using your current I-94 record even if you have an expired visa stamp. Note that Canadian citizens are generally exempt from the visa stamp requirement, such that their brief trips to Canada/Mexico generally do not fall under the AVR.
- □ The automatic revalidation rule for travel to/from contiguous territory (Canada/Mexico) only (and adjacent islands other than Cuba for those in F/J status) of 30 days or less extends the validity of an expired visa to the date of application for admission. In cases where DHS has approved change of status, the visa classification is also changed to the new status. This exception to the visa stamp requirement applies only if the foreign national has maintained and intends to resume nonimmigrant status, is applying for readmission within the authorized period of stay, holds a valid passport, does not require a waiver, has not applied for a new visa, and is not a national of a "State Sponsor of Terrorism" designated country.
- □ If you are returning to the U.S. under the automatic revalidation rule, print a copy of your latest I-94 record and keep it with your valid passport with expired visa and Form I-797, if applicable. You may also carry evidence of maintenance of nonimmigrant status (for example, a recent employment verification letter or recent paystubs). Lastly, you could also carry background information about automatic revalidation, as CBP officers have varying degrees of knowledge of this exception to the valid visa stamp requirement: https://help.cbp.gov/s/article/Article-1218?language=en US