
PIPS - Partners Office for International Professionals and Students

Memorandum

To: Hospital Staff
From: Claire Ayer, Director
Date: 09/28/2017

Presidential Proclamation on Visas

On Sunday, September 24, 2017, the White House issued a Presidential Proclamation (“Proclamation”) titled “Enhancing Vetting Capabilities and Processes for Detecting Attempted Entry in to the United States by Terrorists or other Public-Safety Threats.” The chart below summarizes how the eight countries named in the proclamation will be affected.

Country	Nonimmigrant Visas (aka F-1, H-1B, J-1, O-1)	Immigrant and Diversity Visas (aka Green Cards)
Chad	No B-1, B-2, and B-1/B-2 visas	No immigrant or diversity visas
Iran	No nonimmigrant visas except F, M, and J visas	No immigrant or diversity visas
Libya	No B-1, B-2, and B-1/B-2 visas	No immigrant or diversity visas
North Korea	No nonimmigrant visas	No immigrant or diversity visas
Syria	No nonimmigrant visas	No immigrant or diversity visas
Venezuela	No B-1, B-2 or B-1/B-2 visas of for officials from certain government ministries and agencies and their immediate family members.	No restrictions
Yemen	No B-1, B-2, and B-1/B-2 visas	No immigrant or diversity visas
Somalia		No immigrant or diversity visas

How will Partners be affected?

- PIPS will continue to process J-1s for Iranian nationals but departments need to anticipate lengthy wait times for J-1 visa stamps to be issued.
- PIPS will continue to process H-1Bs for Iranian nationals if they are eligible for a change of status in the U.S. We cannot consular process H-1Bs for Iranians.
- Anyone with a PIPS-sponsored visa from the eight designated countries should consult with a PIPS advisor prior to traveling.
- Anyone from the eight designated countries, except Venezuela, who has a green card in process should speak with their immigration attorney to find out how their green card application could be impacted. If the green card cannot move forward, the employee's administrative contact should follow-up with a PIPS advisor about other visa options.
- Anyone who already holds a green card will not face additional travel restrictions
- A dual national who holds citizenship from one of the affected countries, but who is traveling under the passport of an unaffected country, will not face travel restrictions.

Additional Information

This document is the outcome of a global review undertaken pursuant to the [March 2017 Executive Order](#). U.S. agencies reviewed the adequacy of reporting by foreign governments to determine whether foreign nationals who seek to enter the U.S. pose a security or safety threat.

The Department of Homeland Security ("DHS") has imposed these new restrictions after concluding that the security reporting information from the eight affected countries is inadequate. Additional information is available at this link [here](#).

- [The Department of State FAQs](#) provide for exceptions to the Proclamation for nationals from all eight countries, who will **not** be subject to any travel restrictions.
- The Proclamation stated that case-by-case waivers may not be granted categorically, but may be considered in circumstances which are detailed [here](#).

Moving Forward

Unlike the Executive Orders, there are no expiration dates to the restrictions listed in the Proclamation. DHS and the DOS will devise a process to assess whether the suspensions should be continued for each country. A report will be submitted within 180 days, and 270 days following the first report, and then on an annual basis.

This is a very fluid situation. If you have emergent questions or concerns arising from interactions with Customs and Border Protection officers or similar government officials when entering the U.S., please email the PIPS mailbox at PIPS@partners.org.

We will update our website as we receive clarifications and will send additional messages as conditions evolve.