

Immigration FAQs & Statement

Thank you for reaching out with your inquiry regarding US border policies. International SOS continues to monitor for foreign travelers being detained and continues to track travelers for our clients' awareness. Border agents and immigration officials are enforcing strict controls as part of a "maximum vetting" policy instituted by the United States. We recommend all travelers ensure their travel documents are correctly completed and on their persons at all times during their travel in the US. We also recommend they ensure they strictly follow the limitations outlined in their visas. Travelers should cooperate with all requests from border and immigration agents.

There have been more frequent instances of travelers who, upon arrival in the U.S., undergo additional questioning. This often means one is referred to "Secondary Inspection." That is an adjacent area/office at the airport, where officers are supposed to refer all cases that may take additional time at the "Primary" counter. To reduce these delays, please make sure to have proper documents for entry.

Travelers engaging in protest activity risk having the status of their visas reviewed by the authorities.

If a traveler chooses to carry personal and/or company devices (i.e. phones, laptops) with them while traveling, all the data on the devices could be subject to search by the CBP or ICE officials due to the enhanced vetting policy.

Please kindly find below some recommendations related to Travel/Visa Concerns for entering USA that your business travelers may face with considering the recent changes in the immigration laws following US President Donald Trump's executive order "Securing Our Borders".

Before travelling to the U.S. please kindly make sure your travelers are familiarized with the International SOS Pre-Trip Advisories that include critical, detailed information on:

- Medical and security risks: Learn about prevalent medical risks and current security concerns relevant to their planned destination
- Emergency numbers: Access to local phone numbers in the event they need support
- Ground transportation: Understand what is recommended for safe travel so that they are prepared upon arrival
- Cultural tips: Information on currency, standards for tipping, and local languages, and more
- Other important risk related heads-up, including those visa & entry specific

A call to an International SOS Assistance Center is always a recommended option should a traveler have any particular questions or concerns.

A. Documentation

Travelers should ensure that their stay in the U.S. is valid and to make arrangements with their employer or school to continue their authorized stay per the U.S. Immigration Rules and Regulations.

Documentation requirements are subject to change. Prior to travel, it is recommended to verify the documents required by the employee's International Office, counsel, or visiting office, as well as to verify that their stay in the U.S. is valid per the U.S. Immigration Rules and Regulations. While in the USA, travelers (as well as international passport holders and other categories that undergo temporary or permanent immigration rules) should keep the following documents depending on their applicability:

- **Passport:** A valid passport from their country of citizenship is essential for travel and must be kept valid throughout their stay and not expire within 6 months.
- **Visa (if applicable):** If a visa is required for entry, ensure it is valid and kept safe.
- **I-94/I-95:** If issued, keep this document printed (preferably in colors), which serves as proof of admission into the United States.
- **Travel Itinerary:** Keep copies of travel itineraries, tickets, and boarding passes for future reference.
- **Financial Documents:** Consular officers may request financial documents to assess your ability to cover your expenses.

Other Immigration and Nonimmigration related documents that are recommended to keep: Recommendation on documents to carry for immigrants and non-immigrants visa holders.

- **Green Card (Form I-551):** This is the primary document for lawful permanent residents and must be kept safe and carried at all times.
- **Printed immigration documents and forms issued to the traveler pursuant to the employer's immigration attorney as needed and applicable for each unique traveler and situation (e.g., Employment Authorization Document (EAD), Re-Entry Permit, Refugee Travel Document, etc.).**
- **Proof of Insurance:** A traveler should maintain health insurance coverage throughout the stay.
- **Financial Documents:** Consular officers may request financial documents to assess the traveler's ability to cover your expenses.

B. Assistance Upon Detention or Refused Entry

International SOS continues to monitor and update its support guidelines for travelers. The below are general guidelines in response to frequently asked questions from travelers based on recent experiences.

Under these circumstances, it is important to remain calm, polite and respectful in your interactions with officials.

- Follow all official directives.
- Seek legal support.
- If unable to reach legal support, International SOS may be able to facilitate contact by alerting Authorized Persons.
- In some cases, visitors being detained may be able to withdraw their intention to enter the U.S. and potentially return to their home country.
- An immigration attorney will be the best resource to provide legal advice.

1. Who to Contact

F-1 (Student Visa) holders should contact their Designated School Official (DSO) prior to making any travel arrangements outside the U.S. Additionally, they should review their university's international office website for any additional travel tips.

Work Visa Holders should consult their Immigration Attorney/Immigration Advisor with their company prior to making any travel decisions.

Advise callers to: Plan well in advance for international travel. Proactively communicate your travel plans outside the United States to your International Office/Immigration Manager/Immigration Attorney for your company. Keep a list of contacts with phone numbers and emails with you in case you need emergency help.

2. Assistance Options

International SOS can support foreign travelers with the following services:

- Liaison with client Authorized Person
- Status verification – International SOS may seek to confirm the status of the affected individual, leveraging internal staff or trusted partners, contacting the local authorities, or send a liaison to obtain further information at the port of entry.

- International SOS staff or partners will not advocate nor provide legal representation for the individual.
- Temporary hotel lodging
- Ground transportation and/or air travel arrangements
- Translation services
- Wire cash transfer
- Coordination of mental health support

3. Privacy Considerations

The Customs and Border Protection may review material on a traveler's electronic device, including cell phones and laptops. Foreign visitors can be denied entry or detained for refusing to submit their device to review. US citizens and legal permanent residents cannot be denied entry, but can be taken for further questioning. Content that may be deemed to potentially point to a national security threat may result in questioning, detention or denial of entry.

Data from 2024 shows that 0.01% of CBP interactions with visitors resulted in a review of electronic devices, however recent news reports and anecdotal experiences suggest this has become more common.

4. Gender Considerations

State Department guidance from January 2025 indicates that they will no longer issue passports identifying x gender. However, entry may not necessarily be denied on the basis of having the gender marked X on their passport. Authorities will continue to recognize foreign passports for entry that state X for gender for the length of the passport's validity.

5. USA is not the Final Point of Destination

Individuals transiting through the US are subject to the same review process by officials. Each case is unique and admittance will depend on the particular circumstances (e.g., origin, documentation, etc). The caller should confirm with their point of contact in the U.S./Immigration Attorney/Advisor in the U.S.

6. US Green Card Holders

CBP (U.S. Customs & Border Protection) officers can ask about your immigration status when entering or leaving the country.

US green card holders or legal permanent residents cannot be denied entry to the US. However, they can be detained or questioned as part of the review and entry process by officials.

7. F-1 and H1-B VISA Holders

CBP (U.S. Customs & Border Protection) officers can ask about your immigration status when entering or leaving the country.

F-1 and H1-B visa holders are subject to the same review and questioning by officials at ports of entry as other foreign visitors.

F-1 (Student Visa) holders should contact their Designated School Official prior to making any travel arrangements outside the U.S. Additionally, they should review their university's international office website for any additional travel tips.

For any further details regarding the Travel Documents you may also wish to refer to the official information from the USCIS at: [Travel Documents | USCIS](#).

Official on line information sources include:

- <https://www.uscis.gov/>
- <https://www.ice.gov/>
- <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/tourism-visit.html>

International SOS will continue to closely monitor U.S. Government sites for new executive order(s) and instructions on the implementation of travel policies and we remain available to you for assistance.