



UPDATE Immigration

MARCH 2013

Automated I-94 Cards - Coming Soon

An interim final rule published in the Federal Register automates Form I-94 Arrival/Departure Records. The automation means that affected visitors will no longer need to fill out a paper Form I-94 when arriving in the United States by air or sea nor will they receive a paper I-94 card upon arrival. Form I-94 provides international visitors evidence that they have been lawfully admitted to the United States, which is necessary to verify alien registration, immigration status, and employment authorization. It has been used by the Social Security Administration and state Departments of Motor Vehicles to verify lawful admission. In lieu of the paper I-94 card, visitors will receive an annotated admission stamp in their passport.

Travelers wanting a hard copy or other evidence of admission will be directed to www.CBP.gov/I94 to print a copy of an I-94 based on the electronically submitted data. According to Customs and Border Protection (CBP), the hard copy will be available immediately and will include an I-94 number to provide as necessary to benefits providers or as evidence of lawful admission. The website will also include data regarding the history of admissions going back two years. Customs and Border Protection is conducting outreach to employers, local offices of the Social Security Administration, and state Departments of Motor Vehicles regarding the acceptability of the annotated admission stamp, the printout from www.CBP.gov/I94, and a travel document (visa/passport) as proof of lawful admission.

The change will become effective on April 26 and will be phased in at airports and seaports of entry beginning April 30. Travelers should continue to surrender their current I-94 cards when appropriate.

CONTACT US

If you have any questions about the content in this legal update, contact one of the members of our Immigration Practice Group below. Robinson & Cole's Immigration Practice Group has experienced attorneys who have assisted clients with a wide range of immigration issues.

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