

Automatic Visa Revalidation Following Travel Outside the United States to Contiguous Territories or Adjacent Islands

22CFR41.112 (d) provides for the automatic extension of the validity of non-immigrant visas after a temporary visit to contiguous territory (Canada, Mexico) and “adjacent islands”* if certain conditions are met:

- The temporary visit must be for 30 days or less.
- The person must have a valid unexpired admission stamp or paper I-94.
- The current visa status (F-1/J-1/H1-B) continues to be valid. Proof includes the I-20, DS-2019, or I-129.
- The visit did not include countries outside of contiguous territory or adjacent islands.
- The person is not a citizen of the countries designated by the US as a state sponsor of terrorism (Iran, Sudan, Syria).
- The person has not travelled to Cuba.

**The term adjacent islands includes Saint Pierre, Miquelon, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Bermuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Jamaica, the Windward and Leeward Islands, Trinidad, Martinique, and other British, French, and Netherlands territory or possessions in or bordering on the Caribbean Sea.*

What does this mean for F-1 or J-1 visa holders and their dependents?

If the F-1 or J-1 has maintained status and are not applying for a new F-1 or J-1 visa, they may travel to Canada, Mexico or adjacent islands* for a visit of 30 days or less without having to obtain a new F-1 or J-1 visa prior to re-entry. **They must possess a valid, signed I-20 or DS-2019.**

What does this mean for H1-B or H-4 visa holders?

If the H1-B or H-4 is still employed for the sponsoring employer and is applying for an H1-B visa, they may travel to Canada, Mexico for a visit of 30 days or less without having to obtain an H1-B visa prior to re-entry. **They must possess the original approval notice and evidence of the I-129.**

NOTE: This applies to the US visa stamps ONLY. Individuals may still require a visa from the country that they are visiting and should check the government website for rules and regulations pertaining to the individual country.

FAQ:

What if I have a paper I-94?

- Immigration has an electronic record of I-94's. If an entry to the US occurred prior to the electronic system, the person would need to present the paper form to comply with validation requirements.

What if I apply for a new visa?

- If you apply for a new visa at the US Embassy or Consulate and the visa is denied, you are not eligible to use revalidation.

Does this apply if I live in the Caribbean?

- You cannot use revalidation if you travel to your home country.

What if I travel through Canada to go back to the US?

- Revalidation does not apply if your visit include countries that are not contiguous to the US or adjacent islands.

Office of International Services, USF World
4202 E Fowler Ave CGS101, Tampa, FL 33620

<http://global.usf.edu/is/>

Updated 11/17/2017