

UNCLASSIFIED



MRN: [25 STATE 55754](#)
Date/DTG: Jun 09, 2025 / 091521Z JUN 25
From: SECSTATE WASHDC
Action: ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS COLLECTIVE *Immediate*
E.O: 13526
TAGS: CVIS, CMGT
Captions: SENSITIVE
Subject: National Interest Exceptions (NIEs) for the Suspension of the Entry to the United States of Aliens from Designated Countries Pursuant to Section 212(f) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(f))

1. **SUMMARY:** Presidential Proclamation (PP) "Restricting the Entry of Foreign Nationals to Protect the United States from Foreign Terrorists and Other National Security and Public Safety Threats" (hereinafter "the PP") issued on June 4, 2025, fully or partially suspends the entry to the United States of and U.S. visa issuance to aliens from 19 countries, pursuant to section 212(f) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) (8 U.S.C. 1182(f)). This cable details the process by which applicants can be approved on a case-by-case basis for an NIE. NIEs are approved through an action memo (AM) to the Consular Affairs (CA) assistant secretary or senior bureau official (SBO) from a Chief of Mission (COM). NIEs should be used rarely and the relationship of the travel to U.S. national interests should be exceptional in nature.

(U) National Interest Exceptions

2. (SBU) A COM may consider an NIE request if the applicant is able to demonstrate his or her travel to the United States would serve a U.S. national interest, consistent with Executive Order 14150 "America First

Policy Directive to the Secretary of State," which directs the Secretary of State to always put America and American citizens first.

3. [REDACTED] Given the nature of the PP's findings - that vetting and screening information for nationals of countries covered by the PP is so deficient as to warrant a full or partial suspension of admission - NIEs should be used rarely and the relationship of the travel to U.S. national interests should be exceptional in nature. COMs should make NIE requests only after carefully considering, from an America First perspective, why and how the applicant's travel would serve a U.S. national interest. [REDACTED]

(U) Procedures to Approve an NIE

4. (U) The PP states:

"(d) Exceptions to the suspension of and limitation on entry pursuant to sections 2 and 3 of this proclamation may be made case-by-case for individuals for whom the Secretary of State finds, in his discretion, that the travel by the individual would serve a United States national interest. These exceptions shall be made by only the Secretary of State or his designee, in coordination with the Secretary of Homeland Security or her designee."

5. [REDACTED] The Secretary of State has delegated the authority to approve NIEs on a case-by-case basis to the CA assistant secretary or SBO.
6. [REDACTED] For an applicant to qualify for an NIE, the applicant must first meet the requirements for the visa class and be issuable independent of any

suspension of entry or issuance under 212(f). This includes any screening and vetting otherwise necessary for visa issuance. An applicant who would be subject to a refusal under 212(f) can qualify for an NIE through an approved AM from a COM. Example template memos for NIEs are available on CAWeb at [\(Link\)](#). A single AM may be used for a group of applicants traveling as part of the same party for the same purpose (e.g., a family). By requesting the NIE, the COM is personally attesting that the visa applicant's identity is not in question, and that the applicant does not represent a threat to U.S. national security or public safety. While a Priority Appointment Request (PAR) or referrals are still permitted for nationals subject to 212(f), qualifying for a PAR or referral does NOT in and of itself indicate the applicant meets the bar for national interest necessary for an NIE.

7. [REDACTED] If the applicant is qualified for the visa and is under consideration for an NIE, adjudicators should refuse the applicant under 212(f) using the refusal code [REDACTED]. The AM should be cleared by the consular chief in the section where the applicant applied and approved personally by the requesting COM. Memos should be sent to countries-of-concern@state.gov and the VO/F analyst who covers that post for routing to the CA SBO or assistant secretary for approval. Memos should not be sent to VO/F before an applicant has been found otherwise qualified for the visa and refused under 212(f) as part of his or her visa application. As part of the interview process, adjudicators should take detailed case notes [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

8. [REDACTED] If the AM is approved, an electronic copy will be sent to post, and consular sections must scan a copy of the memo into the case. Adjudicators must enter a case note regarding the approved NIE, request [REDACTED], and annotate the visa "NIE to PP on [REDACTED]"

Travel." The visa should not be issued until the [REDACTED] has been removed from CLASS.

9. [REDACTED] Some examples of travel that could potentially qualify for an NIE include, but are not limited to:

- The applicant is traveling for or on behalf of the U.S. government, including training for U.S. government employees;
- The applicant is traveling to the United States at the request of a U.S. government department or agency for legitimate law enforcement, foreign policy, or national security purposes;
- The applicant is traveling to participate in an international sports competition at the professional level (guidance for World Cup and Olympic Games participants is forthcoming);
- The applicant is traveling for purposes related to an international organization designated under the International Organizations Immunities Act (IOIA), 22 U.S.C 288 et seq., traveling for purposes of conducting meetings or business with the U.S. government, or traveling to conduct business on behalf of an international organization not designated under the IOIA;
- Other travel in support of a critical mission, Department, or U.S. government priority endorsed by a Chief of Mission;
- The applicant and any medically necessary escorts are traveling for urgent, non-routine humanitarian medical treatment not possible outside the United States or are traveling to continue previous medical treatment.

10. [REDACTED] A connection to a U.S. citizen or a U.S. citizen requesting assistance from a relative who needs to travel on a visa is, by itself, not sufficient grounds for an NIE. Examples of travel that would likely NOT qualify for an NIE absent other factors include:

- The applicant is traveling to visit or attend events involving family members who are U.S. citizens, LPRs, or lawfully admitted aliens;

- The applicant is traveling for education, work, or training in the United States. This includes continuing students or resuming employment;
- Travel that, if denied, would cause the applicant financial hardship, personal hardship (including but not limited to emotional distress), educational hardship, or non-critical harm to an applicant's health and well-being;
- The applicant is traveling to provide assistance to a U.S. citizen family member;
- The applicant is traveling for routine commercial or business purposes.

11. (U) **Inquiries:** Posts must refer any U.S. media inquiries regarding NIEs to CA-Press@state.gov and congressional inquiries regarding NIEs to ConsularOnTheHill@state.gov. Posts may continue to reply to routine case-specific constituent inquiries about cases subject to the PP.

Signature: RUBIO

XMT: BASRAH, AMCONSUL; CARACAS, AMEMBASSY; CHENGDU, AMCONSUL; KABUL, AMEMBASSY; MINSK, AMEMBASSY; SANAA, AMEMBASSY; ST PETERSBURG, AMCONSUL; VLADIVOSTOK, AMCONSUL; YEKATERINBURG, AMCONSUL

UNCLASSIFIED

