U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Carrier Liaison Program – updated 2009 CLP Bulletin

IMPORTANT UPDATE IN ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

March 10, 2009

SIX-MONTH CLUB UPDATES

Below you will find the current list of Six-Month Club members. This update supersedes the list currently found in the Carrier Information Guide on Page 18 as well as the CLP Bulletin date April 16, 2008. You may also find the updated list on CBP.gov. The additional or reinstated countries are below in blue text. The following countries are no longer part of the Six- Month Club: Bangladesh, Botswana, Cuba, Ecuador, Eritrea, Kuwait, Laos, Oman, Senegal, Syria, Tanzania.

Visitors traveling to the United States are required to be in possession of passports that are valid for six months beyond the period of their intended stay in the United States. Citizens of the countries listed below are exempt the six-month rule and need only have a passport valid for their intended period of stay.

Algeria
Andorra
Angola
Antigua and Barbuda
Antilles
Argentina
Armenia
Aruba
Australia
Austria
Bahamas, The
Barbados
Belgium
Belize
Bermuda
Bolivia
Bosnia-Herzegovina
Brazil
Bulgaria
Burma
Canada
Chile
Colombia
Costa Rica
Cote D'Ivoire
Croatia
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Denmark
Dominica
Dominican Republic
Egypt
El Salvador
Estonia
Ethiopia
Fiji
Finland
France
Gabon
Georgia
Germany
Greece
Grenada
Guatemala
Guinea
Guyana
Haiti
Holy See
Hong Kong
Hungary
Iceland
India
Indonesia
Ireland
Israel
Italy
Jamaica
Japan
Latvia
Lebanon
Libya
Liechtenstein
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Macau
Macedonia
Madagascar
Malaysia
Maldives
Malta
Mauritania
Mauritius
Mexico
Monaco
Mongolia
Montenegro
Mozambique
Nepal
Netherlands
New Zealand
Nicaragua
Nigeria
Norway
Pakistan
Palau
Panama
Papua New Guinea
Paraguay
Peru
Philippines
Poland
Portugal
Qatar
Romania
Russia
San Marino
Serbia
Seychelles
Singapore
Slovakia
Slovenia
South Africa
South Korea
Spain
Sri Lanka
St. Kitts and Nevis
St. Lucia
St. Vincent and The Grenadines
Suriname
Sweden
Switzerland
Taiwan
Thailand
Trinidad and Tobago
Tunisia
Turkey
Tuvalu
Ukraine
United Arab Emirates
United Kingdom
Uruguay
Uzbekistan
Venezuela
Vietnam
Zimbabwe

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Six Month Club Rules

United States law requires that EVERY passenger have a valid passport while they are in the U.S. It states further that you not only have to have a valid passport for the time you wish to be here, but ALSO for an additional six months. For example, if a visitor comes to your booth and wants to stay in the U.S. for one month, he needs to have a passport valid for that one-month period AND an additional six months (7 months in all). Also, if an L-1 (inter-company transferee) has a visa that states he is to be given three years, he too needs to have three years AND six additional months. That is the law of the United States. Do not get ahead of yourself- you need to understand the law first.

Certain countries have a waiver for this law. Those countries that are exempt the six-month rule are commonly referenced as the Six Month Club. Keep in mind that these countries are an EXCEPTION to the law and not the law itself. These countries (currently numbering 103) DO NOT NEED TO HAVE THE ADDITIONAL SIX MONTHS. They STILL need to have the amount of time they wish to be in the U.S. In other words, they ONLY need to have a valid passport WHILE THEY ARE IN THE U.S. For example, if a passenger from India (a six-month club member) wants to stay in the U.S. for five months to visit family, they need to have a passport valid for only the time they wish to be here (in this case, five months) If that same situation comes up, but the passenger is from China (NOT a six-month club member), that passenger would need to have a passport valid for five months PLUS the additional six months that U.S. law requires (11 months in total).

Continuing on, if an L-1 from a six-month club country wants his three years or an H1B (specialty occupation worker) who has a petition end date of 2009, comes in and they do not have the entire time they want on their passport, you CANNOT admit them for the entire time. The law requires that their passport be valid for the time they wish to be in the U.S. They may be six-month club member, but you CANNOT give them two or three years if they do not have that much time on their passport. In this case, the primary officer would have to limit the stay of the passenger with an annotation on the I94 stating "Limited stay per passport validity". That is only if they can actually get the time.

If a passenger from Indonesia (NOT a six-month club member) comes to you today, 26JULY2007 with a passport valid until 26DEC2007 and states that he is here for business for only one week, we would not be able to give him any time. This is because he would need to have AT MINIMUM a passport valid for one week (02AUG2007) PLUS an additional six months (02FEB2008). The Indonesian couldn't even be given one day since his passport is only valid for five months to begin with. He is already negative one month and he is inadmissible to the U.S. pursuant to 212(a)(7)(A)(i)(II) of the INA. Of course there is a waiver of passport requirements (I193) which has an administrative fee of $545.00 now.

As a side note to all of this, there is an actual reason why this rule is in effect. It has nothing to do with the United States. It has everything to do with the laws of foreign countries and how much time they require THEIR OWN CITIZENS to have on their passports in order to enter back. The countries not on the list require that their citizens have at least six months to get back into their own country. Countries like UK and France only require their citizens to have a passport valid at the time of reentry to their home country. This is why we can give them that amount of time.