



EMAIL BULLETIN

VISA REVALIDATION PROCESSING TIME LENGTHENS AMID GROWING CONCERNS THAT PROGRAM MAY BE PHASED OUT

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Visa Revalidation is a procedure for obtaining the renewal of expiring, or recently expired, visa stamps through submission by mail of the applicant's valid passport, visa application, and appropriate fees to the visa office in Washington, D.C. As many applicants for visa revalidation have already discovered, the process can now take twelve weeks or more, leaving the applicants without their passports and without the means to travel internationally for months at a time.

While growing Visa Revalidation backlogs are an inconvenience to applicants accustomed to the convenience of obtaining their visas in advance of planned travel abroad, there are growing concerns that the Visa Revalidation procedure may soon be phased out entirely. Knowledgeable sources in the American Immigration Lawyers Association have indicated that the relevant government entities are currently discussing the possibility of phasing out the Visa Revalidation program due to security concerns. The overall philosophy is that the Department of State, as the country's first line of defense, should look each applicant in the eye and run the applicant's names through security clearance procedures before allowing them to travel to the United States. Due to the risk of being "trapped" outside of the U.S. for a month or more, visa applicants should consult with their Tindall & Foster immigration professional when developing a visa strategy. Visas can no longer merely be "picked up at a consulate."