

# Changes to the I-94 card process: automation by CBP (begins April 2013)

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has announced that the issuance of Form I-94 will soon be automated. Effective April 30, 2013, paper I-94s will not be issued to aliens entering the U.S. at a number of airports and sea ports. By May 21, 2013, all airports and sea ports will issue automated I-94s, except in few limited cases. (Paper I-94s will continue to be issued at land border posts indefinitely.)

As a reminder, an I-94 is a small white card issued by the CBP to aliens who lawfully enter the U.S. Annotated on the I-94 is the date of entry to the U.S., the port of entry, the class of admission (non-immigrant status under which the alien is admitted), and the expiration date of the status, which is "D/S" for F-1 and J-1 students. Most I-94 issued at the port of entry by CBP look something like this →

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY  
U.S. Customs and Border Protection

OMB No. 1651-0111

Departure Record

Admission Number  
442415050 21

10 JUL 15 2009 3383

Class  
Unit

18. Family Name  
SIMITIH

19. First (Given) Name  
MAINI

20. Birth Date (DD/MM/YY)  
11/3/0579

21. Country of Citizenship  
PHILIPPINES

See Other Side

CBP Form I-94 (05/08)  
STAPLE HERE

If a petition for change of status (eg. from F-2 to F-1) is filed within the United States by the individual and approved by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS), a different version of an I-94 is issued by USCIS, indicating the individual's new status. The I-94 is attached to the Form I-797 Notice of Approval and looks like this:

PLEASE TEAR OFF FORM I-94 PRINTED BELOW, AND STAPLE TO ORIGINAL I-94 IF AVAILABLE

Detach This Half for Personal Records

Receipt # WAC-11-027-  
I-94# 992 21

NAME [REDACTED], BHAVNA

CLASS H4

VALID FROM 03/26/2011 UNTIL 09/30/2013

PETITIONER: [REDACTED] BHAVNA  
SUNNYVALE CA 94089

92 21

Receipt Number WAC-11-027-  
Immigration and  
Naturalization Service  
I-94  
Departure Record Petitioner:

14. Family Name  
[REDACTED]

15. First (Given) Name  
BHAVNA

16. Date of Birth  
[REDACTED]/1979

17. Country of Citizenship  
INDIA

Form I-797A (Rev. 10/31/05) N

## WHAT IS CHANGING?

CBP will no longer issue paper I-94 cards to arriving travelers (aliens), except in a few limited situations such as land border posts. Instead, CBP will place an admission stamp in the alien's passport, indicating the date of admission, port of entry, class of admission and the expiration of the alien's status, which is "D/S" in the cases of F-1 or J-1 students. The stamp will look something like this →



Upon admitting an alien, CBP will create an electronic record that will immediately be available online at [www.cbp.gov/I94](http://www.cbp.gov/I94) after the website goes live on April 26, 2013.

An alien will be able to access the website and print out his/her I-94 (the electronic record) by providing his/her biographic information and passport and entry information. **The printed I-94 could then be used to complete Form I-9 (Employment Eligibility Verification) and to apply for benefits such as Social Security Number (SSN) or driver's license.**

A CBP I-94 website printout will look like this →

Family Name:	LI
First (Given) Name:	LYDIA
Birth Date (MM/DD/YYYY):	01/01/1990
Passport Number:	P123123213
Passport Country of Issuance:	Mexico
Date of Entry (MM/DD/YYYY):	04/11/2012
Class of Admission:	B1

► If an employer, local, state or federal agency requests admission information, present your admission required documents requested by that employer or agency.  
► Note: For security reasons, we recommend that you close your browser after you have finished

## WHAT IS NOT CHANGING?

The U.S. entry admission process will not change, except that most travelers will no longer need to complete a paper I-94 card upon arrival to the U.S. since paper I-94 cards will no longer be issued except in specific situations such as land border posts or whenever CBP determines that issuing a paper I-94 card is appropriate.

All aliens in the U.S. should have in their possession some type of I-94, whether a paper I-94 card or I-94 website printout.

REMINDER: The automated I-94 does not apply to those who enter the U.S. from a land border port of entry. Those individuals who enter at a land port will still receive a paper I-94 card.

- **Change of Status/Extension of Stay**

USCIS will continue to issue I-94s attached to Form I-797 Notice of Approval for change of status or extension of stay.

- **Automatic Visa Revalidation**

The admission process will not change for individuals traveling to Canada or Mexico for 30 days or less without a valid visa stamp (a concept known as automatic visa revalidation). Such individuals would normally need to have an I-94 in their possession to be readmitted to the US. Individuals traveling under automatic revalidation rules during the automation period (those without a paper I-94 card) will be processed normally as CBP will have their record electronically. Upon re-entry, they will receive a new port of entry stamp in their passports.

- **Individuals with paper I-94 cards (those who entered the U.S. before April 30, 2011)**

For those who currently have paper I-94 cards, it is still VERY IMPORTANT to keep this card as a document that verifies your immigration status while you are in the U.S. Applying for a lost, destroyed or stolen I-94 card costs \$330, and it may take many months to receive the new I-94 replacement card.

The CBP automated I-94 website will go back two years from the implementation date. Therefore, if a paper I-94 card is lost and you entered the U.S. before April 30, 2011, you will need to apply for a replacement I-94 or leave and re-enter the US to be processed for a new/electronic I-94. However, for those aliens who entered the U.S. on or after April 30, 2011, they should be able to use CBP's website ([www.cbp.gov/I94](http://www.cbp.gov/I94)) to print their I-94 admission number.

It is recommended that individuals surrender the paper (non-electronic) I-94 cards to an airline or CBP official when departing the U.S.

For more information about the changes related to I-94 automation, please visit CBP's websites at:

[http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/travel/id\\_visa/i-94\\_instructions/i94\\_rollout.xml](http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/travel/id_visa/i-94_instructions/i94_rollout.xml)

[http://www.cbp.gov/linkhandler/cgov/newsroom/fact\\_sheets/travel/i94\\_factsheet.ctt/i94\\_factsheet.pdf](http://www.cbp.gov/linkhandler/cgov/newsroom/fact_sheets/travel/i94_factsheet.ctt/i94_factsheet.pdf)