

CFGI Summary of Executive Order on “Extreme Vetting”

Title: “[Protecting the Nation From Foreign Terrorist Entry Into the United States](#)”

Signed by President – 1-27-17

Action	Details	Comments
<p>Suspension of Issuance of Visas and Other Immigration Benefits to Nationals of Countries of Particular Concern</p>	<p>The order bans, for at least 90 days, entry to the United States for nationals of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Iraq • Iran • Libya • Somalia • Sudan • Syria, and • Yemen. <p>Other countries might be added at a later time.</p> <p>The Secretary of State and the Secretary of Homeland Security are given authority to grant case-by-case exceptions in the national interest.</p> <p>The order directs the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the Director of National Intelligence, to determine the information needed from any country to determine that individuals seeking immigration benefits are not a security or public-safety threat and submit it to the president in 30 days.</p>	<p>Employers with employees or business travelers who are nationals of those countries and were expected to enter the United States will need to make alternative plans. Employers will also need to inform and advise employees already in the United States from those countries who might have travel plans in the coming months.</p>

<p>Implement Uniform Screening Standards for all Immigration Programs</p>	<p>The Secretary of State, Secretary of Homeland Security, Director of National Intelligence, and the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation are instructed to implement a program during adjudication of immigration benefits to identify individuals seeking to enter the United States on a fraudulent basis, with the intent to harm or who are at risk of causing harm subsequent to admission.</p> <p>This will involve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in-person interviews • creation of document databases • additional questions on forms, and • other criteria. <p>A first report on progress is due to the President in 60 days.</p>	<p>CFGI will be reaching out to the agencies involved with employment-based immigration to obtain information on what changes are coming and to educate officials on how such changes will affect employers.</p>
<p>Realignment of the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) for Fiscal Year 2017</p>	<p>A 120 day halt on refugee admissions will be implemented with an exception for refugees who are subject to religious persecution and are a member of a minority religion in their country of nationality. This halt could be extended beyond 120 days.</p> <p>Syrian refugee processing is suspended until President Trump determines sufficient changes have been made to USRAP.</p> <p>The order additionally reduces the number of refugees to be admitted from 110,000 to 50,000 in fiscal year 2017.</p> <p>The Secretary of State and the Secretary of Homeland Security are given authority to grant case-by-case exceptions in the national interest.</p>	<p>This will not affect refugee status for those already in the United States working for employers.</p>

<p>Expedited Completion of the Biometric Entry-Exit Tracking System</p>	<p>The executive order directs agencies to expedite this process, which was mandated by Congress in 1996. Biometric entry was implemented in 2006, but biometric exit has never been fully and successfully implemented. The Secretary of Homeland Security is instructed to submit an initial report to the President after 100 days.</p>	<p>There is no immediate impact on employers as completion will still take time even if expedited. Once implemented, employers will need to ensure their employees are aware of and complying with biometric exit processes.</p>
<p>Visa Interview Security</p>	<p>The order suspends the Visa Interview Waiver Program. This change would require all visa applicants to attend interviews unless a statute stipulates that such an interview is not required.</p> <p>To the extent permitted by law an appropriations, the order instructs the Secretary of State to expand the Consular Fellows Program to minimize the effect on visa processing wait times.</p>	<p>This will have a significant impact on nonimmigrant visas, as consular officers will no longer be able to waive interviews for renewals within 12 months of the expiration of the initial visa. Employers should plan accordingly to ensure their nonimmigrants traveling abroad seeking a visa renewal have scheduled such interviews and accounted for them.</p> <p>Employers should additionally be aware that wait times are likely to be longer for visa interviews in general as a result of this provision and plan accordingly.</p>
<p>Transparency and Data Collection</p>	<p>The Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Attorney General, is to report every 180 days on information related to foreign nationals, included numbers of terrorism-related charges, removals, radicalization, material support of terrorism, gender-based violence, and other information related to public safety and security, including immigration status of foreign nationals charged with major offenses.</p> <p>The Secretary of State shall, within one year of the order, report on the estimated long-term costs of the refugee program at the Federal, State, and local levels.</p>	<p>This information can be expected to be used in justifications for future policy action.</p>