



U.S. Customs and
Border Protection

APR 8 2011

MEMORANDUM FOR: Directors, Field Operations
Office of Field Operations

Director, Preclearance
Operations

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

FROM: Executive Director
for Admissibility and Passenger Programs

SUBJECT: Blanket Waiver of Passport Requirement for Holders of Turkish
Republic of North Cyprus Travel Document

This is to inform U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) field offices that on May 1, 2011, CBP, pursuant to authority delegated from the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), renewed its agreement with the Department of State (DOS) for a blanket waiver of the passport requirement for holders of the Turkish Republic of North Cyprus (TRNC) travel document. The blanket renewal will have a two-year validity period beginning immediately and will expire no later than May 3, 2013.

On August 21, 2004, DHS agreed with DOS that bearers of TRNC travel documents qualified for a passport waiver under the authority found in §212(d)(4)(A) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) as an unforeseen emergency due to local political considerations. This authorization expired on June 22, 2006. On May 1, 2009, CBP renewed its agreement with DOS until May 3, 2011. CBP does not typically adjudicate waivers of nonimmigrant travel document requirements in advance of travel. On a limited basis, the Admissibility Review Office (ARO) will provide individual advance authorization of a DOS favorable recommendation for a travel document waiver, e.g., where the United States does not recognize a country's travel document. TRNC travel documents are invalid because the United States does not recognize the issuing authority.

The renewal of the blanket waiver agreement allows the bearers of TRNC travel documents a temporary waiver under the authority found in §212(d)(4)(A) of the INA. It is only available if the document holder is otherwise qualified to receive a nonimmigrant visa (NIV). The NIV will be placed in a DOS Form DS 232, "Unrecognized Passport or Waiver Cases." The DS 232 will be annotated to show the pertinent section of the INA and the maximum validity period of May 3, 2013.

Please have a member of your staff contact (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) Program Manager, Admissibility Review Office, at (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) Program Manager, Admissibility Review Office, at (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) should you have any questions or concerns.

Weekly Muster

Week of Muster: Week of Receipt

Topic: Blanket Waiver of Passport Requirement for Holders of Turkish Republic of North Cyprus Travel Document

Reference Materials: INA §212(d)(4)(A)

Headquarters POC: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Office: Admissibility Review Office

On May 1, 2011, U.S. Customs Border Protection (CBP), pursuant to authority delegated from the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), renewed its agreement with the Department of State (DOS) for a blanket waiver of the passport requirement for holders of the Turkish Republic of North Cyprus (TRNC) travel document.

- The blanket waiver agreement allows the bearers of TRNC travel documents a temporary waiver under the authority found in §212(d)(4)(A) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA).
- The holder of the TRNC travel document must be otherwise qualified to receive a nonimmigrant visa (NIV).
- The blanket renewal has a two-year validity period beginning immediately and will expire no later than May 3, 2013.
- The validity of the temporary passport waiver cannot exceed May 3, 2013. For example, if the passport waiver is granted on July 1, 2012, the validity period of the waiver will still be May 3, 2013.
- Any discrepancy between the noted validity date requirement and an Embassy Nicosia provided validity period shall be brought to the attention of the above noted Admissibility Review Office HQ POC as soon as practical.
- The Department of State will place the NIV issued to the bearer of TRNC travel documents on a Form DS 232. The Form DS 232, "Unrecognized Passport or Waiver Cases," will be annotated by DOS to signal the subject's having been allowed a temporary waiver of the passport requirement under INA §212(d)(4)(A). The annotation will also reflect the May 3, 2013 validity period.