



U.S. Customs and
Border Protection

JUL 27 2012

MEMORANDUM FOR: Directors, Field Operations
Office of Field Operations

Director, Preclearance
Operations (b)(6);(b)(7)(C)

FROM: Executive Directive
Admissibility and Passenger Programs

SUBJECT: Georgian "status-neutral" travel documents

On July 17, 2012, the U.S. Department of State began accepting Georgia status-neutral travel documents (SNTD) from any resident of Russian-occupied Abkhazia and South Ossetia, Georgia who chooses to use them for travel or study in the United States. These documents were introduced by the Georgian government in July 2011 and meet the definition of a passport under INA 101(a)(30) and may be accepted for visa issuance. The code SNTD should be listed for the place of birth and nationality on the visa.

BACKGROUND: Following the August 2008 Georgia-Russia conflict, Russia recognized Georgia's separatist regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia as independent countries. The overwhelming majority of the international community has refused to recognize their independence, with the exception of Russia, Venezuela, Nicaragua, Nauru, and Tuvalu. Certain residents of Abkhazia and South Ossetia have chosen to claim Russian citizenship and obtain Russian passports for international travel; however they remain Georgian citizens under Georgian law. The Government of Georgia introduced the SNTD for use by these residents to provide an additional instrument for international travel and engagement opportunities. Secretary Clinton announced U.S. acceptance of the SNTD as a valid travel document during her June 5, 2012 visit to Georgia. To date, Japan, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, the Czech Republic, and Slovakia have also started accepting the SNTD as a valid travel document.

Should you have any questions or require additional information regarding this memo and muster, please contact (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) Director, Fraudulent Document Analysis Unit at (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) or (b)(6);(b)(7)(C).

Weekly Muster

Week of Muster: Upon Receipt

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HQ POC/Office: (b)(6);(b)(7)(C) Fraudulent Document Analysis Unit
(b)(6);(b)(7)(C)

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