

**DEPARTMENT of STATE  
BUREAU of CONSULAR AFFAIRS  
FRAUD PREVENTION PROGRAMS**

**UNITED STATES  
BORDER CROSSING CARD**

Introduced October 2008



2008

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AILA Doc. No. 19062860. (Posted 6/28/19)



**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
B1 / B2 VISA / BORDER CROSSING CARD**

The new BORDER CROSSING CARD (BCC) being issued by the U.S. Department of State in cooperation with the Department of Homeland Security is a credit card-sized plastic card that combines a B1/B2 tourist visa with a Border Crossing Card. The Border Crossing Card will be issued only to Mexican nationals who are resident in Mexico in areas along the US-Mexican border. The purpose of the BCC is to facilitate travel, inspection and frequent crossings for Mexican nationals living in border communities along the southwestern tier of the United States.

If accompanied by a valid passport, the Border Crossing Card can also be used as a visa for air travel. However, the BCC does not authorize employment, as indicated clearly on its reverse side: **U.S. EMPLOYMENT NOT AUTHORIZED.**

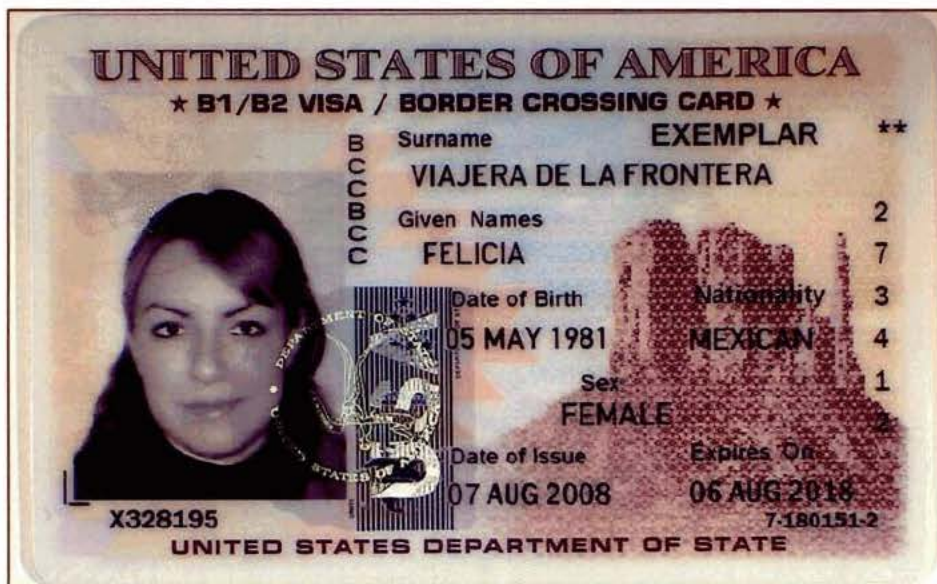
Like the U.S. Passport Card, the BCC will contain a radio frequency identification chip (RFID chip) and integrated contactless circuit (ICC) antenna, which, as recognized by DHS's PASS System, will respond with a unique 'read-only' electronic number. No BCC card recipient's personal information is written to the RFID chip itself.

GRAPHIC DESIGN ELEMENTS

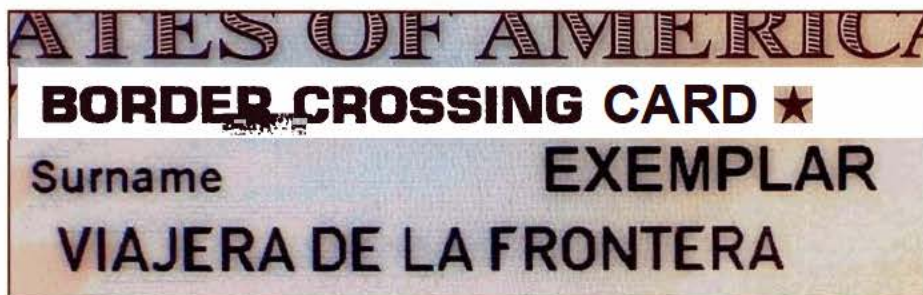
**BACKGROUND DESIGN:** The card's design features two major graphic elements meant to evoke the Southwest -- (a.) a tall, shadowy butte depicted in brown, seen against a sky that changes from light blue to tan on the card's right. That image melds into the second element, (b.) a woven pattern reminiscent of a Navajo blanket, which occupies the card's left side and contains the card's photo panel area. The predominant colors of the blanket motif are pastel corals, tans, aquamarine, and lavender.

**FOREGROUND – HEADING and AUTHORITY:** Emblazoned across the card's top margin is the stylized two-line heading --

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
\* B1/B2 VISA / BORDER CROSSING CARD \***



The graphic design of the Border Crossing Card reflects a Southwestern theme.



Closeup: Sample BCC cards will reflect the endorsement "EXEMPLAR" imprinted above the recipient's surname.

Using a smaller font, the issuing authority is imprinted across the card's lower margin --

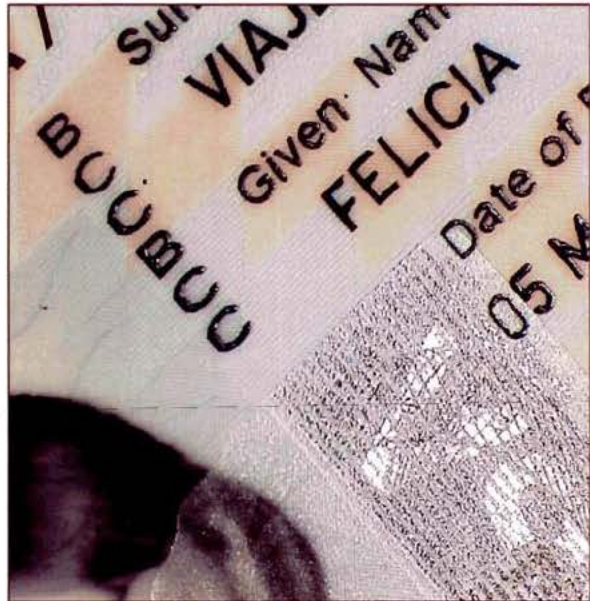
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE

OVERT SECURITY ELEMENTS - FRONT

**PHOTO PANEL – Debossed EAGLE:** A clear, **tactile** image (14 x 14 mm) of the Eagle portion of the Great Seal is debossed into the card's surface, overlapping the photo panel in the upper left corner (see close-up image on following page).



Tactile, transparent debossed EAGLE overlaps upper corner of photo panel.



Several elements will be tactile, including the recipient's Date of Birth, and selected letters within the vertical BCC string to right of the photo.

**VERTICAL STRING:** A string of "BCC" abbreviations, consisting of six letters -- also referred to as a 'mirror' -- is laser-printed into the card's surface, adjoining the photo panel's upper right corner, following a vertical orientation.

- **Different individual** letters within each 'BCC' string will be laser-etched and fully tactile, while other letters will remain flat (2D), as determined by logic governing the application of formulaic code based on the recipient's own specific personal data.



The Equivalence Security Value imprinted below the recipient's photo is fully tactile.

**EQUIVALENCE SECURITY VALUE:** An "Equivalence Value" is imprinted as an alpha-numeric string of seven (7) characters just below the lower left margin of the BCC recipient's photo-digitized image. This element is fully tactile.



**"GALACTIC EAGLE" OVD:**

A diffractive optically-variable device (OVD), embedded below the card's surface, is composed of a "Galactic Eagle" perched upon its ornamental shield, featuring upswept wings. It is enclosed within circular design elements, surrounded by an elaborate funicular oval wreath. The image is composed of high resolution 2D vector-graphic elements that impart 'optical movement' effects that vary with one's viewing angle.

The left half of the OVD element is mainly transparent, and overlaps the lower half of the

photo panel's right side, extending well into the recipient's photo.

In contrast, the right half of the OVD incorporates an ultra fine metalized tab that features a miniature Constellation of Stars and Western Hemisphere silhouette which is part of a larger metalized 'USA' abbreviation turned on its side. The visual emphasis of the letters (e.g., US and A) change as they are highlighted when viewed at different angles.

**PERSONALIZATION** of the BCC's face includes seven common data fields, plus five additional security elements -- including the 'Equivalence Value' and 'BCC String.' Certain imprinted data elements are tactile, depending upon specific factual data about the individual card recipient.

**BACK of the BORDER CROSSING CARD**

The issuing authority 'UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE' is repeated in black letters centered across the top margin.

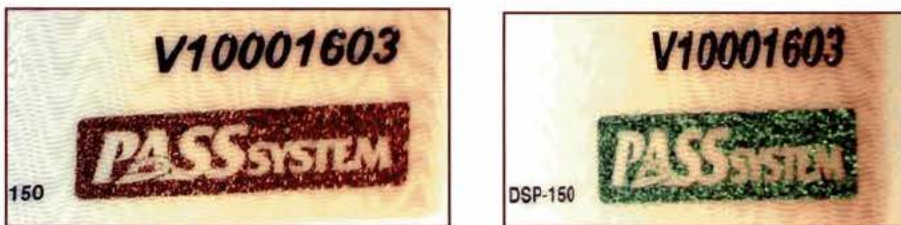
**COLOR SCHEME:** The back of the BCC card presents a split fountain color scheme of dark tan merging into a centered light blue-grey. The central image is



The binary code imprinted above the 'B1/B2 VISA' label allows for variation, and can be composed of either 5 or 6 digits.

a detailed line depiction of the Eagle of the Great Seal, shown against a complex pattern of fluctuating waves that exhibit interference lines where wave lengths either reinforce or overlap each other.

**BORDER CROSSING CARD's Inventory Control Stock Number - NOT FOR REFERENCE:** The BCC features an inventory control stock number imprinted just above the **PASSSYSTEM** logo. It starts with the letter "V," and the number is laser-engraved to be fully tactile. This number should not be used as a reference number for the card because it is not contained in any databases, nor otherwise associated with any additional record of the person to whom the card has been issued.



The back of the BCC card features each card's inventory control number, which is tactile, and the PASS System logo imprinted in color shifting ink. The inventory control number is not contained in databases, nor does it refer to any record of the BCC recipient.

**PASSSYSTEM LOGO – Color Shifting Ink:** DHS's **PASSSYSTEM** logo is expressed in hollow letters applied in color-shifting ink – that changes from

a scintillant metallic copper, through a yellow-gold, to a medium, metallic light green color. The color reaction is a strong, very noticeable one.

**ONE DIMENSIONAL BAR CODE:** The card's inventory control stock number is marked at manufacturing in a 1-D bar code.

**MACHINE-READABLE ZONE (MRZ):** The MRZ is composed of three lines of data, and these include several authentication elements and codes, etc., in addition to prescribed and optional elements prescribed for machine-readable travel documents by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). The format for information about the card recipient contained in the MRZ of the new BCC has not changed from the previous version of the BCC; however, additional security values have been added and embedded into the MRZ.

#### TERM OF VALIDITY

The term of validity for the new Border Crossing Card is ten (10) years for adults. Children ages five (5) to fourteen (14) have the option of paying a reduced fee to receive a card that is valid until their 15<sup>th</sup> birthday. Children under the age of five pay the same reduced fee and receive a card that is valid for ten (10) years.

#### CANCELLATION OF BORDER CROSSING CARDS

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#### FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information about the U.S. B1/B2 Visa / Border Crossing Card, and about the regulations coming into force to facilitate and govern travel and inspection under the terms of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI), please visit the Department of State's website located at -- [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov) -- which also has links to items of interest concerning passports, visas, and an extensive range of various consular fraud-related subjects.

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**BUREAU of CONSULAR AFFAIRS**  
*Office of Fraud Prevention Programs*

**UNITED STATES**  
**BORDER CROSSING CARD**



Front



Back



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