

Weekly Muster

Week of Muster: Week of July 1, 2013

Topic: Extension of Border Zone in New Mexico

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

Office: Land Border Integration Program Management Office

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has published in the Federal Register a final rule that will extend the border zone up to 55 miles, from the current 25 mile restriction, for Border Crossing Card (BCC) holders traveling to the state of New Mexico.

- Effective July 12th, 2013, the border zone in New Mexico is extended to 55 miles of the border or the area south of and including Interstate Highway I-10, whichever is further north; for travelers entering the United States to visit within the State of New Mexico.
- Mexican nationals presenting a Border Crossing Card (BCC) to visit within the State of New Mexico 55 miles of the border or the area south of and including Interstate Highway I-10 for a period not to exceed 30 days are not required to obtain an I-94.
- Travelers are not required to enter at a port of entry in New Mexico to travel to the expanded border zone. This rule expands the border zone enough to allow BCC holders to travel on Interstate Highway I-10 from Tucson, Arizona to Las Cruces, New Mexico and El Paso, Texas, benefitting commerce in the entire region.
- This extension does not affect the 30-day time limit of the border zone applicable to BCC holders or the 72-hour time limit of the border zone applicable to Mexican nationals presenting a visa and passport.
- The extension of the border zone will not affect the current visa requirements for foreign nationals wishing to enter the United States nor will it affect the threshold requirements for admission into the United States as a nonimmigrant B-1/B-2 or BCC visa holder including eligibility based on applicable statutory and regulatory requirements.
- The rule also extends the same border zone and period of admission to Mexican nationals who are members of the Texas Band of Kickapoo Indians or Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma in possession of a Form I-872 American Indian Card.
- Mexican nationals traveling beyond the border zone, or who will remain beyond the time periods indicated above are required to obtain and complete a Form I-94.