

MEMORANDUM FOR DIRECTOR
U.S. CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES

FROM: Acting Commissioner

SUBJECT: Blanket HIV Waivers for Nonimmigrants

This is in response to the December 22, 2005, letter requesting that U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) assume responsibility for oversight and management of designation of special events for the purpose of granting blanket HIV waivers to nonimmigrants coming to, or transiting through, the United States to participate in such events.

I concur that it would be more expedient and efficient for CBP to have sole responsibility for this program, including approving requests for designation of special events, as CBP has the responsibility of coordinating the waiver process with the U.S. Department of State (DOS). Such designation would continue to be approved based upon a review of public interest and humanitarian grounds after consultation with DOS and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

I appreciate the efficiency and helpfulness of your staff in addressing this issue. CBP will be notifying the appropriate offices of DOS and HHS under separate cover of our expanded role in this process and following consultation on particular events, will coordinate the waiver process with DOS once final designation of such events occurs.

If we may offer further assistance, please contact me or have a member of your staff contact Mr. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) Acting Executive Director, Admissibility Requirements and Migration Control, at (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)