

July 7, 2014

MEMORANDUM FOR: Directors, Field Operations
Executive Director, Operations
Deputy Executive Director, Operations
Director, Pre-Clearance Operations
Office of Field Operations
Field Operations Academy

FROM: (b)(6);(b)(7)(C) /s/
Acting Executive Director
Admissibility and Passenger Programs
Office of Field Operations

SUBJECT: Frequently Asked Questions regarding the mandatory transition to the new 04/14 version of the CBP Customs Declaration (CBP Form 6059B)

This memorandum provides a summary of the frequently asked questions posed by field offices and the travel industry concerning the mandatory transition to the new 4/14 version of the CBP Form 6059B, commonly known as the Customs Declaration.

As you know, all Field Offices are required to transition from earlier versions, now obsolete, and begin transitioning to the new 04/14 version. This new version is available in 18 languages, including English. It is our desire to achieve full implementation by July 31, 2014 but we recognize the increasing concerns of the travel industry with respect to this transition.

In our efforts to facilitate the adjustment process for field officers and the private sector, CBP, therefore, grants an extension to allow stakeholders to fully integrate the use of the new Customs Declaration. The extension period will expire September 30, 2014. All POE's are instructed to accept the old version of the Customs Declaration until the end of FY 14. With the commencement of FY15, old versions will no longer be accepted.

In our continued effort to provide the public with an enjoyable and faster traveling experience, the English version of CBP Form 6059B in a fillable format can be found at www.CBP.gov.

CBP's Office of Public Affairs will make an announcement before July 31, 2014. Please ensure dissemination of this memorandum and attached answers to FAQ's.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please have a member of your staff contact Traveler Policy Division Program Manager (b)(6);(b)(7)(C) at (b)(6);(b)(7)(C) or via email at (b)(6);(b)(7)(C).

Attachment: FAQ's-Transition to new CBP Form 6059B

Frequently Asked Questions about the new CBP Form 6059B-Customs Declaration

What is new with the CBP Form 6059B?

In compliance with Federal law, the new CBP Form 6059B incorporated the definition of the term family for the purposes of filing a joint declaration. Family is defined as “members of a family residing in the same household who are related by blood, marriage, domestic relationship, or adoption. In addition, the new form reflects the revised Paperwork Reduction Act statement.

Why is CBP transitioning to a new CBP Form 6059B?

By Federal law, CBP is mandated to implement the above-mentioned changes to adequately reflect the final rule of the Federal Register and the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA).

How will travelers benefit from the new definition of the term family?

With the definition, same-sex couples residing in the same household can claim their spouses or partners in a single customs declaration.

When did the requirement become effective?

The final rule in the Federal Register became effective January 17, 2014.

Can CBP postpone the implementation date?

CBP has been coordinating full implementation under a grace period that expires July 31, 2014.

Can airline carriers be granted an extension to continue using the old CBP Form 6059B?

Yes. CBP recognizes the inconvenience this may cause to the travel industry and grants an extension until the end of our fiscal year - September 30, 2014 - to exhaust their existing stockpile.

How many languages are available for the new form?

The form is available in 18 languages.

Arabic	Chinese Traditional	Chinese Simplified
Dutch	Hebrew	Portuguese
English	Italian	Punjabi
Farsi	Japanese	Russian
French	Korean	Spanish
German	Polish	Vietnamese

Are there any special instructions for POE's to order the form?

Yes. DFOs, Port Director or designated employee must complete CBP Form 3039 and submit a request to the National Distribution Center at NDCREQUESTFORMMAILBOX@cbp.dhs.gov.

How can CBP assist airline carriers?

DFOs, Port Director or designated employee must inform all carriers currently operating within their respective AOR about the following two options:

- 1- Upon request, they can receive the new CBP Form 6059B in a pdf format at no cost. The pdf format can be used for printing and distribution and is available in 18 languages.
- 2- Carriers can request a batch with ready to use forms at no cost. The forms are free but carriers or requestor is responsible for paying shipping charges and any other cost associated to the shipment. They must allow 7-10 days to receive the forms.

How can the airline carriers submit a request to obtain the new CBP Form 6059B?

Requests for the pdf format can be done through FormsManagement@cbp.dhs.gov. Carriers are responsible for printing the forms.

The private sector must complete CBP Form 262 when requesting the batch with ready to use forms through NDCREQUESTFORMMAILBOX@cbp.dhs.gov. The batch is ready for distribution.

Are there any other changes?

Yes. The CBP Form 6059B in its English version can be found in a fillable format at www.CBP.gov. Travelers can complete and print the form from the privacy of their homes. The fillable format is the equivalent to the standard format. Provided that it is properly completed and signed, CBPO's will start accepting the fillable format.

Would a formal announcement be made?

Yes. CBP's Office of Public Affairs is coordinating the announcement. They endeavor to make the announcement two weeks prior to the expiration of the grace period, which is July 31, 2014.