Travel Outside the United States to Contiguous Territories or Adjacent Islands

Automatic Visa Revalidation 22CFR41.112(d):

22CFR41.112 (d) provides for the automatic extension of the validity of non-immigrant visas after a temporary visit to contiguous territory (Canada, Mexico) and “adjacent islands”* if certain conditions are met. The temporary visit must be for 30 days or less. The alien must possess an I-94, valid passport, re-enter during the authorized period of initial attendance or extension of stay and intend to resume non-immigrant status.

F or J non-immigrants, who have maintained status and are not applying for a new visa, may travel to Canada, Mexico or adjacent islands for a visit of 30 days or less without having to obtain a new visa prior to re-entry. They must possess a valid endorsed I-20 or DS-2019.

*The term adjacent islands includes Saint Pierre, Miquelon, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Bermuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Jamaica, the Windward and Leeward Islands, Trinidad, Martinique, and other British, French, and Netherlands territory or possessions in or bordering on the Caribbean Sea.

Suspension of Automatic Visa Revalidation for Certain Countries:

Effective April 1, 2002, the State Department has revised 22 CFR 41.112(d) to exclude all aliens who are nationals of designated state sponsors of terrorism from being able to re-enter the United States using an automatically revalidated visa. Countries subject to this revision currently include Iran, Syria, Libya, Sudan, North Korea and Cuba.

F or J non-immigrants from these countries are excluded from the benefits of automatic visa revalidation and will not be allowed to re-enter the United States with an expired U.S. visa stamp while traveling to a contiguous territory or adjacent island.

Exclusion from Automatic Visa Revalidation if Applying for a New Visa in Contiguous Territory:

Effective April 1, 2002, The State Department will prohibit re-entry using an automatically revalidated visa of any alien who has applied for a new visa while outside the United States.

F or J non-immigrants who apply for a new visa during short visits to a contiguous territory or adjacent island are excluded from the benefits of automatic revalidation of an expired non-immigrant visa.