

## **U.S. Department of State Announces Extension of Validity for National Interest Exceptions (NIEs) for Travelers from China, Iran, Brazil, South Africa, the Schengen Area, the United Kingdom, Ireland and India**

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On July 6, 2021, the U.S. Department of State (DOS) announced that it will extend the validity of National Interest Exceptions (NIEs) for travelers from China, Iran, Brazil, South Africa, the Schengen Area, the United Kingdom, Ireland and India who are subject to Presidential Proclamations (PPs) 9984, 9992, 10143, 10199 and similar PPs related to COVID-19. Unless otherwise specified, existing NIEs issued by a U.S. embassy or consulate will now be valid for 12 months from the date of approval and for multiple entries, as long as they are used for the same purpose for which the NIE was issued. The validity extension applies to those who have approved NIEs and those granted NIEs in connection with a visa application. U.S. Customs and Border Protection has not indicated whether it will follow suit and extend the validity of the NIEs it has approved.

DOS' announcement may be accessed [here](#).

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