



IMMIGRATION *ALERT!*

Special Registration Through The National Entry Exit Registration System (NSEERS)



AS A RESPONSE TO THE EVENTS OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001, THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS ROLLED OUT A SPECIAL ALIEN REGISTRATION SYSTEM, DUBBED THE **NATIONAL SECURITY ENTRY EXIT REGISTRATION SYSTEM (NSEERS)**. THIS SYSTEM IS EFFECTIVE AS OF OCTOBER 1, 2002.

Effective October 1, 2002: Participants will be fingerprinted and photographed on arrival and subject to

- (a) 30-day in-person registration,***
- (b) annual registration, and***
- (c) departure control.***

ALL CITIZENS OF THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES, regardless of age or gender, must participate in the NSEERS system:

- Iran
- Iraq
- Libya
- Sudan
- Syria

In addition, MALE ALIENS FROM THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES WHO ARE BETWEEN THE AGES OF 16 AND 45 will be required to participate in the NSEERS system:

- Pakistan
- Saudi Arabia
- Yemen

Dual Nationals

If the inspecting officer learns that an alien is a dual national and is applying for admission as a national of a country that is not subject to special registration, then the officer shall refer that alien for special registration. However, a recent INS memorandum has confirmed that dual citizens of Canada **AND** one of the eight countries listed above will not be subject to special registration.

Identification for Registration

Arriving aliens subject to NSEERS registration will be registered at the port of entry through which they arrive. There are four different methods by which a nonimmigrant alien may be identified for special registration:

- (1) Being a citizen or national of one of the eight countries listed above or any country so designated in the Federal Register;
- (2) Notification through the Interagency Border Security System (IBIS);
- (3) Pre-existing criteria as defined by the attorney general, which includes:

- Unexplained trips to Iran, Iraq, Libya, Sudan, Syria, North Korea, Cuba, Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan, Yemen, Egypt, Somalia, Pakistan, Indonesia, or Malaysia, **OR** if the alien's explanation of such trips lacks credibility;
- Other travel not well explained by the alien's job or other legitimate circumstances;
- A previous overstay in the U.S. on a nonimmigrant visa, where monitoring is now appropriate in the interests of national security;
- Meeting characterization established by current intelligence updates and advisories;
- Identification by local, state, or federal law enforcement as requiring monitoring in the interest of national security;
- Behavior, demeanor, or answers indicating that the alien should be monitored in the interest of national security;
- Information that causes the immigration officer to reasonably determine that the individual requires monitoring in the interest of national security.

(4) Officer discretion. *Please note that an officer's decision to refer an alien to the NSEERS program must be approved by a supervisor.*

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