

# IMMIGRATION SENTINEL

April 2025



Jennifer Cory, Partner

## April 2025 Visa Bulletin

The U.S. Department of State (DOS) April 2025 Visa Bulletin reflects priority date advancement from March in the employment-based final action dates with EB-2 and EB-3 categories advancing for all countries.

## H-1B Registration Completed FY26

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced that it had received enough electronic registrations during the initial registration period to reach the FY2026 H-1B numerical allocations, including the advanced degree exemption.

## Motion to Postpone End of Venezuela TPS Granted

On March 31, Judge Chen of the N.D. of California granted Plaintiff National TPS Alliance, et. al's Motion to Postpone the DHS Secretary's Decision to Vacate the Termination of the TPS Venezuela 2023 designation, which was set to be terminated on April 4, 2025.

## CHNV Parole Ending

U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced it is terminating the categorical parole programs as of 3/25/25 for inadmissible noncitizens from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua, and Venezuela (CHNV) and their immediate family members.

Welcome to the April 2025 issue of our monthly newsletter, *The Immigration Sentinel*. As we monitor immigration benefits and compliance developments, we hope that this medium will be a valuable resource in helping you stay informed and prepared for potential changes that may impact you corporately and individually.



Jeffrey Widdison, Senior Counsel

## **Alien Enemies Act of 1798**

President Trump invoked the Alien Enemies Act of 1798, targeting for immediate apprehension and removal members of Tren de Aragua (TdA), a transnational criminal organization and a designated Foreign Terrorist Organization from Venezuela.

## **Voluntary Self-Report Exit**

U.S. Customs & Border Protection (CBP) will conduct a Voluntary Self-Reported Exit (VSRE) Pilot to collect facial images from certain noncitizens, specifically noncitizens subject to Form I-94 (Arrival/Departure Record) requirements, exiting the United States from any location.

## **Multi Million Dollar International Ad Campaign**

DHS has launched an international, multimillion-dollar ad campaign warning undocumented individuals not to come to the United States. The multilingual ads are running on radio, broadcast, and digital platforms in multiple countries and regions.

## **Border Wall Contract Awarded**

CBP awarded the first border wall contract of President Trump's second term to Granite Construction Co. for \$70,285,846 to construct approximately seven miles of new border wall in Hidalgo County, Texas, within the U.S. Border Patrol's (USBP) Rio Grande Valley (RGV) Sector.

## **Alien Registration**

A new interim final rule (IFR) requires that, beginning April 11, 2025, certain foreign nationals must register their presence by completing the new Form G-325R now available at [my.uscis.gov](https://my.uscis.gov).

## **USCIS Collection of Social Media Identifiers**

USCIS issued a 60-day notice on a proposed new collection of information to collect social media identifiers and associated social media platform names from applicants to enable identity verification, national security and public safety screening, vetting, and inspections.

## **International Travel Considerations**

CBP has ultimate discretion in whether to admit a foreign national to the U.S., regardless of whether s/he possesses an unexpired ESTA registration or visa. It is ultimately up to the traveler to ensure that his/her documentation aligns with the purpose of coming to the U.S. In general, work visas are employer-, job-, and location-specific, so a material change should be vetted in advance and the appropriate government approval obtained for a foreign national worker. In general, business visitors may not work in the U.S., regardless of the duration of the visit and whether s/he remains on a foreign payroll.

A visa holder arrested for Driving Under the Influence/Driving While Intoxicated following his/her last U.S. entry can expect his/her visa to be automatically voided, triggering a trip to a U.S. consulate to obtain a new visa prior to returning to the U.S.

A visa holder arrested or convicted of certain other crimes following his/her last entry to the U.S. may be detained at the port-of-entry and/or returned to his/her home country. U.S. immigration law specifies that a conviction does not require a formal adjudication of guilt. An admission to the elements of a crime will suffice.

All travelers crossing the U.S. border are subject to CBP inspection. CBP officers can search a traveler's mobile phone, computer, camera, or other electronic devices. These searches have been used to "identify and combat terrorist activity, child pornography, drug smuggling, human smuggling, bulk cash smuggling, human trafficking, export control violations, intellectual property rights violations and visa fraud, among other violations". Searches of electronic devices can be used to determine a foreign national's intentions upon entry to the U.S. and whether s/he is admissible under U.S. immigration law. See CBP's [tear sheet](#) for further details.

Travelers may want to wipe sensitive content from their electronic devices when returning from international travel, since a search will only include an examination of information that is resident upon the device at the time it is presented for inspection. CBP is not permitted to use a traveler's devices to access information stored remotely/in the cloud. To avoid retrieving or accessing information stored remotely and not otherwise present on the device, the traveler should disable connectivity to any network (e.g., by placing the device in airplane mode, disabling Bluetooth and disabling Wi-Fi).

In the abundance of caution, travelers may also consider restricting what they post on social media, particularly viewpoints critical of the current Administration. In the context of a random or intentional search, CBP could potentially use such content to invoke charges under the Alien Enemies Act of 1798 referenced above.

**Please contact us at [CoryImmigrationTeam@FisherBroyles.com](mailto:CoryImmigrationTeam@FisherBroyles.com) or 1.833.4FB.VISA with questions. We stand ready to support!**