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Guam-Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Visa Waiver Program Electronic Travel Authorization Transition and Implementation

- On January 18, 2024, an Interim Final Rule was published, titled “Guam-Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands ([G-]CNMI) Visa Waiver Program [(VWP)] Automation and Electronic Travel Authorization [(ETA)]; Creation of CNMI Economic Vitality & Security Travel Authorization Program (EVS-TAP)” (Interim Final Rule, 89 Fed. Reg. 3299 (Jan. 18, 2024)).
- In accordance with this Interim Final Rule, beginning on September 30, 2024, through November 28, 2024, persons intending to travel to Guam or the CNMI for business or pleasure under the G-CNMI VWP will have the option to submit a paper Form I-736 or electronically apply for a G-CNMI ETA in advance of travel and receive an approved ETA prior to embarking on a carrier for travel to Guam or the CNMI.
- On October 1, 2024, Chamorro time zone, the 60-day transition period will begin and eligible travelers under the G-CNMI VWP will have the choice to complete the G-CNMI ETA in lieu of the paper Form I-736.
- During the transition period, a traveler will continue to be able to present a completed and signed paper Form I-736 upon arrival to Guam or the CNMI from foreign locations.
- Countries participating in the G-CNMI VWP are Australia, Brunei, Hong Kong, Japan, Malaysia, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, South Korea, Singapore, Taiwan, and the United Kingdom.
- Per 8 CFR 212.1(q)(1)(vii), travelers admitted under the G-CNMI VWP must be in possession of a valid, unexpired International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) compliant, machine-readable passport issued by a member country that meets the relevant eligibility criteria.
- Travelers who present a United Kingdom passport that states “British National Overseas” (BNO) or holders of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) passport must possess and present a valid Hong Kong Identification Card.
- Eligible travelers from Taiwan must be a resident of Taiwan who travel on direct flights from Taiwan or travel on flights from Taiwan that only have an intermediate stop in U.S. territory en-route to Guam or CNMI. These travelers must be in possession of a Taiwan National Identity Card and a valid Taiwanese passport with a valid reentry permit issued by the Taiwan Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- Carriers should not deny a traveler boarding solely for not having an approved G-CNMI ETA during the transition period.

- Carriers should maintain compliance with completed and signed paper Forms I-736 for travelers who meet eligibility under the G-CNMI VWP during the transition period but who do not have an approved G-CNMI ETA.

Air carriers participating in CBP's Document Validation (DocVal):

- A- Valid U.S. Document on File response: Boarding is permitted
- Z- Not applicable response: Should not be boarded. Contact the Regional Carrier Liaison Group (RCLG).
- D- No Valid U.S. Document on File response: Should not be boarded. Contact the RCLG.

Air Carriers not participating in Document Validation:

- Z- Not applicable response: Should not be boarded. Contact the RCLG.
- D- No Valid U.S. Document on File response: Should not be boarded. Contact the RCLG.

If you have a question on boarding a traveler for the regarding the G-CNMI ETA, it should be directed to the Honolulu Regional Carrier Liaison Group at (808) 237-4632.