

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY (DHS) PUBLISHES FINAL RULE EXPANDING U.S. VISIT BIOMETRICS REQUIREMENT TO U.S. LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENTS RETURNING FROM INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

On Friday, December 19, 2008, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) published in the Federal Register a Final Rule expanding the collection of biometrics under the United States Visitor and Immigrant Status Indicator Technology Program (U.S. VISIT) to include U.S. Lawful Permanent Residents. In this rule, the DHS also finalized an interim rule from 2004 that previously expanded the U.S. VISIT program to include applicants for admission under the Visa Waiver Program. This new rule will go into effect on January 18, 2009.

Since 2004, nonimmigrants have been required to submit digital photographs and finger scans upon admission into the United States. Beginning January 18, 2009, U.S. Lawful Permanent Residents returning to the United States after international travel will be required to undergo the same procedures. With this latest program expansion, with very few exceptions, all foreign nationals seeking admission to the United States must provide biometrics.

[Additional information](#) regarding the scope and application of U.S. VISIT is available on the U.S. Customs & Border Protection (CBP) website. As always, we will continue to monitor the expansion of government programs such as U.S. VISIT and will make further updates available via future Immigration Updates® and on our website.