



---

## **CHILEANS TO TRAVEL VISA-FREE TO THE UNITED STATES STARTING MAY 1, 2014**

On February 28, 2014, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced the designation of Chile under the Visa Waiver Program that allows citizens of certain countries to travel to the United States for business or leisure without visiting a U.S. consulate abroad to obtain a visa stamp in their passports.

Starting May 1, 2014, qualifying Chileans may be admitted under the Visa Waiver Program for up to 90 days for business or pleasure. Work is not authorized, and Visa Waiver travelers are not eligible to change visa status or extend their stay in the United States.

Although a visa is not required under the Visa Waiver Program, applicants must register and receive travel authorization via the Electronic System for Travel Authorization ([ESTA](#)). Most applications result in almost immediate verification of travel authorization, though some applicants may receive “authorization pending” messages with a final determination anticipated within 72 hours.

Once issued, travel authorization is valid for up to two years, or the passport validity period, whichever is shorter. A new travel authorization will be required when the traveler gets a new passport or in the event of a change in the traveler’s name, gender, or country of citizenship.

As always, FosterQuan will monitor changes in DHS programs and eligibility requirements and will make updates available via [our firm’s website](#) and in future Immigration Updates.©