

1. **U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE (DOS) INCREASES NONIMMIGRANT VISA APPLICATION FEES PAID AT U.S. EMBASSIES & CONSULATES ABROAD**
2. **U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY (DHS) WILL DISCONTINUE ISSUANCE OF GREEN FORM I-94W FOR VISA WAIVER TRAVELERS**

1. U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE (DOS) INCREASES NONIMMIGRANT VISA APPLICATION FEES PAID AT U.S. EMBASSIES & CONSULATES ABROAD

On May 20, 2010, the U.S. Department of State (DOS) published in the Federal Register a revised schedule of Machine Readable Visa (MRV) application fees, increasing the basic, non-petition-based visa application fee from \$131 to \$140. Other application fees are to increase in accordance with the following table:

Visa Application Type	Old MRV Fee	New MRV Fee	Amount of Increase
Non-petition-based applications (visitor visas)	\$131	\$140	\$9
H, L, O, P, Q, R (employment-based) nonimmigrant visa applications	\$131	\$150	\$19
K (fiancé) nonimmigrant visa applications	\$131	\$350	\$219
E (treaty-based) nonimmigrant visa applications	\$131	\$390	\$259

Since 2007, the Department of State has tracked the cost of application adjudications based on application type and has noticed that many nonimmigrant visa applications require greater increments of time and document review for adjudication by consular officers. The fee increase, which goes into effect on June 4, 2010, indicates significantly variant fee structure, which the DOS believes is a fair reflection of the variation in document review required each application type. Appointments prior to that date will be honored under the existing fee structure (\$131), and appointments scheduled after that date will be scheduled under the new (scaled) fee structure. In previous years, upon implementation of a fee increase, the DOS has allowed a

“grace period” of 30 days in which the DOS honored appointments scheduled before the effective date of the increase, even if the appointment date was after the increase. Applicants scheduling visa appointments which will take place on or after June 4, 2010, should confirm at the time of scheduling the appointment whether the higher visa application fee will apply.

As always, FosterQuan will continue to monitor changes in U.S. Department of State procedures and fee structures and will make future updates available via Immigration Updates or via our firm’s website at www.fosterquan.com.

2. U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY (DHS) WILL DISCONTINUE ISSUANCE OF GREEN FORM I- 94W FOR VISA WAIVER TRAVELERS

On May 20, 2010, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) issued a [Press Release](#) announcing the scheduled phase out and discontinuance of the green Form I-94W Arrival/Departure Record card for visitors traveling to the United States under the Visa Waiver Program.

Since January 12, 2009, travelers under the Visa Waiver Program have been required to enroll in the Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA) in order to be cleared for visa waiver travel prior to their departure for the United States. Under the ESTA program, traveler data is used for pre-clearance of travelers and for inspection upon admission. With the fully-automated system in place, the Department has determined that the paper Form I-94W may be eliminated as an unnecessary redundancy.

As always, FosterQuan will continue to monitor procedural updates and will make future information available via Immigration Updates and via our website at www.fosterquan.com.