

Immediate US Visa ban on 7 countries - Aircrew also

Declan Selleck
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KZZZ/USA Now in force, is an immediate ban on US visas (and therefore US travel) for citizens from 7 countries: Iraq, Iran, Syria, Yemen, Sudan, Somalia and Libya. This is distinct from the Visa Waiver Program ban in effect since January 2016. The ban is posted for 90 days, but may last longer.

Admission will be refused to visitors with a passport issued by the following 7 countries: **Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen**, and holding a valid immigrant or non-immigrant visa for the US.

This travel ban does not apply to:

- Lawful Permanent Residents (Green Card holders) of the USA who also hold a passport issued by one of the aforementioned countries
- Dual Nationals, holding and traveling with a valid passport issued by USA as well as a passport issued by one of the aforementioned countries
- Dual Nationals holding and traveling with a valid passport issued by a third country as well as a passport issued by one of the aforementioned countries
- Passengers with diplomatic visas, North Atlantic Treaty Organization visas, C-2 visas for travel to the United Nations and G-1 ,G-2 ,G-3 ,and G-4 visas

Aircrew

This affects aircrew as well, whether travelling on a C1/D visa, or whether on duty or off duty.

That's the situation as we understand it, we'll keep this page updated.

Canada Entry: New Rules for 2016

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Update (16MAR2016): Canada has announced a Leniency Period for this new rule "until Fall" – which we take to mean September 2016. Visit the official site link below for the latest.

Starting **15 MAR 2016**, visa-exempt foreign nationals who fly to or transit through Canada will need an Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA). Exceptions include U.S. citizens and travellers with an existing visa.

The system is similar to the ESTA (Electronic System for Travel Authorization) currently in use by the USA. Until now, visa-exempt foreign nationals seeking entry to Canada are not systematically screened for admissibility until they arrive at a Canadian port of entry.

The Canadian pre-approval system will only be required for TRV-exempt individuals seeking to enter Canada by air to visit on a temporary basis. A fee of CAD \$7.00 will be required for processing. Electronic travel authorization will be valid for a period of five years.

A number of exemptions from the requirement to obtain pre-approval to travel will be in place, including:

- nationals of the United States,
- individuals already in possession of a Canadian temporary resident visa,
- certain foreign diplomats,
- **commercial air crew**
- individuals in possession of a visa to enter the United States on a flight bound for that country in transit through Canada, where the sole purpose of the flight stopping in Canada is for purpose of refuelling,

- individuals transiting through Canada as a passenger on a flight who are in possession of any visa required to enter the country of destination

For the full details, and to apply for an eTA if you need one, take a look at the **official Canada eTA site**.