



# FOREIGN AFFAIRS MANUAL

VOLUME 9 – Visas

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## 9 FAM 41.31 NOTES

### CHANGES

1. **9 FAM 41.31 N6.9-1, B-1 Visa Applicants:** Exemptions to the citizenship requirement under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act Amendments (OCSLA) of 1978 manning restrictions can be obtained from the U.S. Coast Guard, which will issue a letter of exemption for the vessel or individual(s). Based on this letter, a B-1/OCS (Outer Continental Shelf) visa may be issued for the purpose and validity specified in the letter, without the need of an advisory opinion from the Department. If an alien requests a B-1 visa to work on the OCS, and cannot satisfy that the work has been exempted by the U.S. Coast Guard, an advisory opinion request must be submitted to the Department (CAVO/L/A) before a visa can be issued.

2. **9 FAM 41.31 N11.8, Aliens Destined to Avocational or Recreational School:** The title and content of this section deals with aliens destined to **avocational** or recreational school and **not** to aliens destined to vocational school.

3. Revisions since the last update appear in italics. Other than formal titles, the italics will be removed the next time the material is updated. Only current changes will appear in italics. Italics provide a historical record of changes.

4. Under the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998, Public Law 105-277, the functions of the U.S. Information Agency related to international broadcasting are transferred to the Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG). Accordingly, all provisions of the FAM previously applicable to USIA continue in effect with respect to the BBG until further notice.

5. Officers are reminded that Department-issued materials not codified in the *Foreign Affairs Manual* or its supplemental *Foreign Affairs Handbook* series generally have no regulatory validity (see 2 FAM 1115.2).

## **FILING INSTRUCTIONS FOR PAPER COPIES**

1. Remove and discard old 9 FAM 41.31 Notes (issued under TL:VISA-567, 08-04-2003; 31 pages) and replace it with revised 9 FAM 41.31 Notes (30 pages).
2. After inserting the material in the binder, insert this transmittal letter immediately following the TL Checklist, then fill in the entry line for TL:VISA-597, and initial.

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3. Use KFAM and AINF TAGS on all communications on FAM/FAH issues; direct questions concerning issuance, validity, and updating to A/RPS/DIR. Direct questions concerning substance and interpretations to the 9 FAM Volume Coordinator, who may be reached at the office indicated at the end of this transmittal letter.

**(CA/VO/L/R)**