



SECURITY DIRECTIVE

<u>NUMBER</u>	SD 1544-21-04
<u>SUBJECT</u>	Security Measures – Coronavirus
<u>EFFECTIVE DATE</u>	Flights departing at or after 00:01 EST (05:01 GMT) on November 29, 2021
<u>EXPIRATION DATE</u>	Indefinite
<u>CANCELS AND SUPERSEDES</u>	Not Applicable
<u>APPLICABILITY</u>	Aircraft operators regulated under 49 CFR 1544.101
<u>AUTHORITY</u>	49 CFR 1544.305
<u>LOCATION(S)</u>	All Non-U.S. Locations

PURPOSE AND GENERAL INFORMATION

The national emergency caused by the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak in the United States continues to pose a grave threat to our health and security. On October 25, 2021, the President issued Proclamation 10294, *Advancing the Safe Resumption of Global Travel During the COVID-19 Pandemic*. To support implementation of this Proclamation and the corresponding Order issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) issued a Security Directive (SD) requiring aircraft operators to obtain an attestation from each Covered Individual, as defined in the Order, entering the country documenting their vaccination status and compliance with other requirements of the CDC. *See* SD 1544-21-03.

On November 24, 2021, the Republic of South Africa informed the World Health Organization (WHO) of a new B.1.1.529 (Omicron) variant of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, that was detected in that country. On November 26, 2021, the WHO Technical Advisory Group on SARS-CoV-2 Virus Evolution announced that B.1.1.529 constitutes a variant of concern. While new information is still emerging, the profile of B.1.1.529 includes multiple mutations across the SARS-CoV-2 genome, some of which are concerning.

In response to this new variant, the United States Government, including the CDC, reexamined its policies on international travel and concluded additional measures are necessary to protect the public health. On November 26, 2021, the President issued a Proclamation suspending the entry into the United States, as immigrants or nonimmigrants, of noncitizens who were physically present within the countries listed in Attachment 1 during the 14-day period preceding their entry or attempted entry into the United States. This Proclamation was issued under the authority of

sections 212(f) and 215(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as codified at sections 1182(f) and 1185(a) of title 8, United States Code (U.S.C.), and 3 U.S.C. section 301 based on a determination that entry of noncitizens who have been physically present in these countries is detrimental to the interests of the United States. The Proclamation directs the Secretary of Homeland Security in cooperation with other agencies to ensure that any noncitizen subject to this Proclamation does not board an aircraft traveling to the United States, to the extent permitted by law. The Proclamation also states that any individuals exempt from the suspension may be subject to an entry suspension, limitation, or restriction under Proclamation 10294 of October 25, 2021 (Safe Resumption of Global Travel During the COVID-19 Pandemic), and other mitigation measures as identified by the CDC.

To protect against the spread of COVID-19, all aircraft operators must perform the measures described in this SD. This SD does not apply to flights and persons designated below as exempt by the U.S. Government.

ACTIONS REQUIRED

- A. The aircraft operator must not allow any noncitizen to board a flight to the United States, whether in an immigrant or nonimmigrant status, if that individual has been present in a location listed in Attachment 1 within the preceding 14 days of the date of the individual's entry or attempted entry into the United States. Individuals who transit/transfer through one of these locations are considered to have been present in the covered location. This restriction does not apply to:
1. United States citizens holding a United States Passport;
 2. Lawful permanent residents of the United States holding a Permanent Resident Card or Letter of Parole;
 3. Any noncitizen national of the United States;
 4. Crewmembers;
 5. Any noncitizen seeking entry into or transiting the United States pursuant to the specifications in Attachment 2. If the aircraft operator is unable to determine whether the person is permitted to board a flight based on the noncitizen status in Attachment 2, the aircraft operator must use the standard process for verifying the admissibility with CBP of a passenger regarding status for entry into the United States; and
- B. Aircraft operators must continue to comply with the measures in SD 1544-21-03, *Requirements for Proof of Being Fully Vaccinated Against COVID-19*, and the SD 1544-21-01 series, *Mask Requirements*, as applicable, for any individual otherwise exempt under Section A of this SD.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT

The aircraft operator must immediately provide written confirmation of receipt of this SD to its Principal Security Inspector (PSI) or International Industry Representative (IIR), as appropriate.

DISSEMINATION REQUIRED

The aircraft operator must immediately pass the information and measures set forth in this SD to any personnel having responsibilities in implementing the provisions of this directive. The aircraft operator may share this SD with anyone subject to the provisions of this directive, including federal, state, and local government personnel; authorized representatives; catering personnel; vendors; airline club staff; contractors; *etc.*

APPROVAL OF ALTERNATIVE MEASURES

In accordance with 49 CFR 1544.305(d), the aircraft operator must immediately notify its PSI or IIR, as appropriate, if unable to implement any of the measures in this SD, or in any TSA-approved alternative measure. The aircraft operator may submit proposed alternative measures and the basis for submitting those measures to its PSI or IIR.

Thomas L. Bush
Acting Executive Assistant Administrator
Operations Support

Attachment 1

1. Republic of Botswana
2. Kingdom of Eswatini
3. Kingdom of Lesotho
4. Republic of Malawi
5. Republic of Mozambique
6. Republic of Namibia
7. Republic of South Africa
8. Republic of Zimbabwe

Attachment 2

The prohibition for boarding individuals who have been present in a country listed in Attachment 1, unless otherwise specified, within the preceding 14 days does not apply to:

1. Any noncitizen who is the spouse of a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident.
 2. Any noncitizen who is the parent or legal guardian of a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident, provided that the U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident is unmarried and under the age of 21.
 3. Any noncitizen who is the sibling of a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident, provided that both are unmarried and under the age of 21.
 4. Any noncitizen who is the child, foster child, or ward of a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident, or who is a prospective adoptee who is seeking to enter the United States pursuant to the IR-4 or IH-4 visa classifications.
 5. Any noncitizen traveling at the invitation of the United States Government for a purpose related to containment or mitigation of the virus.
 6. Any noncitizen traveling as a nonimmigrant pursuant to a C-1, D, or C-1/D nonimmigrant visa as a crewmember or any noncitizen otherwise traveling to the United States as air or sea crew.
 7. Any noncitizen
 - a. Seeking entry into or transiting the United States pursuant to one of the following visas: A-1, A-2, C-2, C-3 (as a foreign government official or immediate family member of an official), E-1 (as an employee of TECRO or TECO or the employee's immediate family members), G-1, G-2, G-3, G-4, NATO-1 through NATO-4, or NATO-6 (or seeking to enter as a nonimmigrant in one of those NATO categories).
 - b. Whose travel falls within the scope of section 11 of the United Nations Headquarters Agreement.
 8. Any noncitizen who is a member of the United States Armed Forces or who is a spouse or child of a member of the United States Armed Forces.
 9. Any noncitizen whose entry would further important United States law enforcement objectives, as determined by the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Homeland Security, or their respective designees based on a recommendation of the Attorney General or his designee.
 10. Any noncitizen or group of noncitizens whose entry would be in the national interest, as determined by the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Homeland Security, or their designees.
-