



July 07, 2025

Sex Codes “M” or “F” in Systems

- On January 20, 2025, the U.S. President issued Executive Order 14168, “*Defending Women from Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government*” (EO). In compliance with the EO, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is updating guidance for Advance Passenger Information System (APIS) transmissions to CBP.
- Carriers are reminded that they are responsible for comparing the travel document presented by the travelers with the travel document information transmitted to CBP to ensure that information is correct, the document appears to be valid for travel to the United States, and the traveler is the person to whom the travel document was issued.¹ Commercial air carriers’ submission of APIS data requires carriers to submit traveler information, including the traveler’s sex, as part of the pre-departure transmission.
- Existing APIS regulatory language provides that “M” or “F” (M=Male; F=Female) sex markers are to be accepted in the transmission. However, CBP systems had previously accepted characters other than “M” or “F” without returning an error response or requiring resubmission.
- Effective July 14, 2025, air carriers will have an informed compliance period of 90-days where values other than “M” or “F” in the sex field will not require resubmission. After the compliance period, APIS will begin returning a resubmit or “X response” which indicates insufficient information requiring resubmission, when values other than “M” or “F” are submitted in the sex field.
- If the travel document presented by a traveler for an international flight to or from the United States has a sex indicator other than “M” or “F” or does not otherwise indicate the sex of the traveler, the carrier or the traveler should select either “M” or “F”. Submitting “M” or “F” in the sex field, in place of the value reflected on the travel document, will not subject the carrier to penalty.
- Any questions regarding the authorization for any alien to travel to the United States to seek admission, should be directed to their appropriate Regional Carrier Liaison Group (RCLG) or other designated CBP official for adjudication prior to aircraft departure.

¹ 19 C.F.R. § 122.49a(d).
Publication No. 5061-0625