



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

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MEMORANDUM FOR REGIONAL DIRECTORS
SERVICE CENTER DIRECTORS
NATIONAL BENEFITS CENTER DIRECTOR
ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS OFFICE DIRECTOR
OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

FROM: 
William R. Yates
Associate Director for Operations

SUBJECT: Interagency Border Inspection System Records Check Requirements

Effective immediately the validity period for IBIS checks is extended from 35 to 90 calendar days. This memorandum amends the guidance provided in the policy memorandum dated July 2, 2002, entitled, Interagency Border Inspection Systems Records Check. That memorandum directs that an IBIS check need not be repeated as long as adjudication of the application or petition occurs within 35-calendar days of the prior IBIS check. This meant that if at the time of adjudication, the record does not contain evidence of an IBIS check conducted within the preceding 35 days; a check must be completed and incorporated in the record of proceeding. Increasing the validity period of an IBIS check from 35 to 90 days is the only change to the July 2, 2002 memorandum. All other requirements set forth in that memorandum remain in effect.

Recently CIS concluded a study to determine whether the validity period of IBIS checks could be extended to 60 days, 90 days, 6 months or 9 months, while maintaining the integrity of the checks and ensuring public safety and national security. Based upon the results of that study, it was determined that the IBIS check validity period be increased to 90 days. The study revealed no discernible difference in the number of positive results encountered at the 3-month period.

This change will be incorporated in the IBIS SOP in the near future. Until such time as that change is affected, all offices should adhere to the guidance contained in this memorandum.