



July 30, 2020

Mr. Brian J. Wagner
President
National Association of Postal Supervisors
1727 King Street, Suite 400
Alexandria, VA 22314-2753

Dear Brian:

The Postal Service plans to revise Administrative Support Manual (ASM), Section 517.2, *Interchange of Space in Postal Service and GSA Buildings*.

The purpose of the revisions is to ensure compliance with Homeland Security Presidential Directive 12 (HSPD-12), *Policy for a Common Identification Standard for Federal Employees and Contractors*, as it pertains to access to buildings the Postal Service leases from the General Services Administration (GSA). As a result of these revisions, certain postal employees will be required to obtain Personal Identity Verification – Inoperable (PIV-I) cards issued by GSA.

We have enclosed:

- Two copies of the revisions to ASM 517.2, one with and one without tracked changes
- A list of facilities impacted and the number and type of employees who access each
- A document explaining the purpose and impact of the changes to ASM 517.2
- A copy of HSPD-12
- A copy of "Your Credential," which outlines the steps necessary to obtain a PIV-I card
- A copy of "USAccess Acceptable Forms of Identification Guide," which outlines the identification types required to obtain a PIV-I card
- A copy of "Personal Identity Verification – Interoperable (PIV-I) Credential," which provides a diagram of the PIV-I credential

Please contact Bruce Nicholson at 7773 if you have questions concerning this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "DE Mills".

 David E. Mills
Manager
Labor Relations Policies and Programs

Enclosures

The Postal Service leases operating space from the General Services Administration (GSA) throughout the country. Postal employees are provided access to most of these buildings through postal-only entrances. However, in 12 buildings (details attached), postal employees must use public access points to enter the buildings. The Postal Service intends to execute a new lease with GSA effective October 1, that will require postal employees who use these public access points to possess a Personal Identity Verification-Inoperable (PIV-I) card.

The requirement for a PIV-I card is based on Homeland Security Presidential Directive – 12 (HSPD-12), issued in 2004, which requires federal agencies to use a standard credential to verify the identities of all employees and contractors accessing federal buildings and information systems. Effective with the execution of the October 1, 2020, lease, GSA will require compliance with HSPD-12 for admittance to buildings at which postal-only entrances are not available¹.

PIV-I cards (example provided below) are similar to postal identification badges, however they do not signify an individual has completed a background investigation as defined by postal policy. To obtain a PIV-I card, individuals must meet in-person with an organization authorized to issue PIV-I cards and must present identification documents as detailed in *USAccess Acceptable Forms of Identification* and a signed Privacy Act Statement, both of which are attached. Fingerprints would also have to be captured, but would only be used for identity verification, not for any type of criminal background check. A detailed accounting of the steps necessary to receive a PIV-I card can be found here: <https://www.fedidcard.gov/your-credential#Step> (print-out attached).

Whether individual employees will be required to obtain a PIV-I card will be determined by local operations based on needs of the service and the efficiency and cost of facilitating employees obtaining PIV-I cards compared to guest building access procedures. When the determination is made that an employee will need a PIV-I card for his/her assignment, local management will coordinate with the Inspection Service and the employee to schedule the necessary appointments. All costs associated with obtaining a PIV-I card, including travel time pursuant to Handbook F-15, *Travel and Relocation*, will be compensated by the Postal Service. PIV-I cards issued to employees will be considered accountable property and must be surrendered to the Inspection Service when the PIV-I card is no longer needed by the employee (e.g. if the employee resigns from USPS or changes assignment).

The attached proposed revisions to Administrative Support Manual, Section 517, *Interchange of Space in Postal Service and GSA Buildings* capture the requirements listed above.

Tom Russell
Digitally signed by Tom Russell
DN: cn=Tom Russell, o=Facilities,
ou=Planning,
email=tom.russell@usps.gov, c=US
Date: 2020.07.30 10:22:54 -04'00'

Tom Russell
Manager, Facilities Real Estate & Assets

¹ In limited instances, employees may be provided guest access to these buildings, provided the employee complies with the GSA security procedures for admission of visitors to that building.

517.2 Interchange of Space in Postal Service and GSA Buildings

517.21 GSA-Postal Service Agreement

Occupancy of space by the Postal Service in GSA-controlled buildings, and by the GSA and other federal agencies in Postal Service-controlled buildings, is governed by the *Agreement Between General Services Administration and the United States Postal Service Covering Real and Personal Property Relationships and Associated Services* (GSA-Postal Service Agreement)

517.22 Rent

Rent is the payment by which each agency compensates the other for space occupancy and for standard levels of building operation, utilities, cleaning, and security.

517.23 GSA-Postal Service Relationship

The relationship between the GSA and the Postal Service is on a landlord-tenant basis. Other federal agencies including the U.S. courts and members of Congress) occupying space in Postal Service buildings are considered subtenants of the GSA.

517.24 Access to GSA-Controlled Buildings

Certain GSA-controlled buildings have restricted access points that require a Personal Identity Verification-Interoperable (PIV-I) credential for entrance. Postal employees who need to regularly access one of these GSA-controlled buildings will be required to obtain and possess a PIV-I credential.

In the event a postal employee does not possess a PIV-I credential, guest access to the GSA-controlled building may be granted, provided the employee complies with the GSA security procedures for admission of visitors to that building.

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In the event a postal employee does not possess a PIV-I credential, guest access to the GSA-controlled building may be granted, provided the employee complies with the GSA security procedures for admission of visitors to that building.

Building Name	Building Address	State	City	Area	District	Anticipated Impacted Employees	Closest PIV-I Credentialing Facility
JFK FEDERAL BUILDING JAMES M HANLEY FB	15 New Sudbury St	MA	BOSTON	Northeast	Greater Boston	Two city carriers, two clerks	Same building
PEACHTREE SUMMIT FB	100 S CLINTON ST 401 W PEACHTREE ST NW	NY GA	SYRACUSE ATLANTA	Northeast Capital Metro	Albany Atlanta	11 carriers, 7 clerks One city carrier	.4 miles away Same building
HOLLINGS JUD CTR G W HEANEY F.B. & US COURTHOUS	83 MEETING ST 515 W 1st St	SC MN	CHARLESTON DULUTH	Capital Metro Western	Greater So Carolina Northland	One clerk One clerk	TBD .2 miles away
A J CELEBREZZE FB BRICKER FEDERAL BLDG RICHARD BOLLING FB	1240 E 9TH ST 200 N HIGH ST 601 E 12TH ST	OH OH MO	CLEVELAND COLUMBUS KANSAS CITY	Eastern Eastern Western	Northern Ohio Ohio Valley Mid-America	Two clerks One clerk One clerk	Same building Same building 1.5 miles away
F. EDWARD HEBERT FEDERAL DENNIS CHAVEZ FEDERAL BUILDING HOUSTON CUSTOM HOUSE BOB CASEY FEDERAL BUILDING	600 S MAESTRI PL 500 GOLD AVE SW 701 SAN JACINTO ST 515 RUSK ST 300 N LOS	LA NM TX TX	NEW ORLEANS ALBUQUERQUE HOUSTON HOUSTON	Southern Western Southern Southern	Louisiana Arizona Houston Houston	One clerk Three clerks Two clerks One clerk	.8 miles away TBD 1 mile away 1 mile away
FEDERAL BUILDING PHILLIP BURTON,FB CT	ANGELES ST 450 GOLDEN GATE AVE	CA CA	LOS ANGELES SAN FRANCISCO	Pacific Pacific	Los Angeles San Francisco	One clerk One clerk	Same building Same building

REVISION CHART

Version	Primary Author(s)	Description of Version	Date Completed
1.0		Original	9/2016
1.1	Tavia Bazemore	Updated revision chart and footnote	5/21/19
1.2	Tavia Bazemore/Angela Gibson	Changed section 2.1, page 3, to add Congressional ID as an acceptable form of secondary identification for the FIPS 201-2, Personal Identity Verification (PIV)	2/26/2020

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USAccess Acceptable Forms of Identification Guide

1.0 Overview

All USAccess PIV card applicants are required to provide identification at the time of Enrollment. This guidance is provided to clarify the Identity Proofing requirements for USAccess PIV cards and to follow FIPS 201-2 standards.

2.0 Identity Document Requirements

Applicants are required to provide two forms of identification.

During the identity proofing phase of the USAccess credentialing process, applicants are required to provide two forms of identity source documents in their original form. These documents must be brought to Enrollment appointments. All identity source documents shall be bound to that applicant and shall be **neither expired nor canceled**.

The current list of acceptable primary and secondary source documents is listed in the Primary and Secondary identification tables below. **At a minimum one of the identity source documents must be from the Primary list.**

2.1 Approved Identity Source Documents

The following primary and secondary Identity Source documents are approved for use by USAccess.

Primary Forms of Identification

1. U.S. Passport or a U.S. Passport Card;
2. Permanent Resident Card or an Alien Registration Receipt Card (Form I-551);
3. Foreign passport;
4. Employment Authorization Document that contains a photograph (Form I-766);
5. Driver's license or an ID card issued by a state or possession of the United States provided it contains a photograph;
6. U.S. Military ID card;
7. U.S. Military dependent's ID card; or
8. PIV Card.

Note: Photos are required for all forms of primary identification above

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Secondary Forms of Identification

1. U.S. Social Security Card issued by the Social Security Administration <i>Laminated SSA cards cannot be used without Security Officer approval.</i>	2. Original or certified copy of a birth certificate issued by a state, county, municipal authority, possession, or outlying possession of the United States bearing an official seal;
3. ID card issued by a federal, state, or local government agency or entity, provided it contains a photograph; EXCEPTIONS APPLY – See Section 2.4 below	4. Voter's registration card;
5. U.S. Coast Guard Merchant Mariner Card;	6. Certificate of U.S. Citizenship (Form N-560 or N-561);
7. Certificate of Naturalization (Form N-550 or N-570);	8. U.S. Citizen ID Card (Form I-197);
9. Identification Card for Use of Resident Citizen in the United States (Form I-179);	10. Certification of Birth Abroad or Certification of Report of Birth issued by the Department of State (Form FS-545 or Form DS-1350);
11. Temporary Resident Card (Form I-688);	12. Employment authorization document issued by Department of Homeland Security (DHS);
13. Reentry Permit (Form I-327);	14. Refugee Travel Document (Form I-571);
15. Employment authorization document issued by Department of Homeland Security (DHS);	16. Employment Authorization Document issued by DHS with photograph (Form I-688B);
17. Driver's license issued by a Canadian government entity;	18. Native American tribal document; or
19. Congressional Identification (ID) that meets FIPS 201-2 requirements (Must have a visible expiration date in red font)	

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2.2 General Rules for Acceptance

The following rules apply to all presented identity source documents:

- All documents must be in their original forms - no photocopies other than a certified copy of birth certificate bearing an official seal.
- Expired or canceled identity documents are not acceptable.
 - All Primary forms of ID contain an expiration date; however some Secondary forms of ID do not. Not having an expiration date does not make a Secondary ID Source unacceptable. Secondary forms of ID without an expiration date can be accepted.
- Updating or replacing identity source documents is not required after successfully completing the identity proofing process.

2.3 Examples of Acceptable Identity Source Documents

The USAccess Help Desk often receives questions regarding acceptable forms of ID. Some of the more frequently asked about forms of identification that are **ACCEPTABLE** are listed below:

- PIV Card – Acceptable *Primary* form of ID
- Agency ID Badge – Acceptable *Secondary* form of ID
 - Must be issued by federal, state, or local government agency or entity
 - Must contain a photograph

Note that an Agency ID badge differs from a Facility Badge, which is not acceptable, in that an Agency ID badge is an Agency-wide identity card issued by the Agency itself, rather than a badge used specifically for accessing a facility
- TSA Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) – Acceptable *Secondary* form of ID
- DHS Trusted Traveler Cards – Acceptable *Secondary* form of ID. This includes:
 - Global Entry cards
 - SENTRI cards
 - NEXUS cards
 - FAST cards

2.4 Examples of Identity Source Documents Not Accepted

Identity proofing documents **NOT ACCEPTED** by USAccess include, but are not limited to:

- Student ID Cards (including public/state universities, as well as private universities)
- Gun or Firearms permits
- License to Carry
- Hunting/Fishing permits
- Facility Badge
- Temporary driver's licenses
- Selective service card
- Company ID Card

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- Foreign Driver's License (other than Canada)
- Library Card
- Temporary PIV Card
- Marriage license

Note that Marriage license is an acceptable linking document, but not an acceptable Primary or Secondary form of identification

2.5 Primary and Secondary Combination Examples

The following examples of source identification documentation are representative of acceptable combinations of Primary and/or Secondary source documents that can be used to successfully validate an applicant's identity:

Acceptable Combination 1:

- a. Virginia State Driver's license (Primary)
- b. US Social Security Card (Secondary)

Acceptable Combination 2:

- a. US Passport (Primary)
- b. Maryland State Driver's license (Primary)

Acceptable Combination 3:

- a. US Military ID Card (Primary)
- b. Department of State ID Card (Secondary)

The following examples of source identification documentation are representative of unacceptable combinations of Primary and/or Secondary source documents that CANNOT be used to successfully validate an applicant's identity:

Unacceptable Combination 1:

- a. US Social Security Card (Secondary)
- b. Voter's registration card (Secondary)

Reason: At least one form of identification must be Primary

Unacceptable Combination 2:

- a. Virginia State Driver's license (Primary #5)
- b. Virginia State ID card (Primary #5)

Reason: While on their own, these are both valid Primary forms of ID, the language in the Primary forms of ID table above states the applicant should present "Driver's license *or* an ID card issued by a state." One may be accepted, but not both, as these are essentially the same form of ID.

3.0 Linking Documents

If any of the identity source documents presented for identity proofing bear different names then **evidence of a formal name change must be provided linking the names.** More information on linking documents is provided below.

3.1 Requirements for Identity Source Linking Documents

Identity source documents with different names can only be accepted when an official linking document is presented.

All linking documents must include both the former and current legal names. All linking documents must be valid and not expired.

Example: A married woman may use both a current driver's license with her married name, and her birth certificate with her maiden name, as primary and secondary sources of identification as long as they are accompanied by an approved linking document. For this example an approved linking document would be a marriage license – original or certified copy - with both her maiden name and married name on it.

3.2 Approved Linking Documents

The following are approved linking documents:

- Marriage Certificate
- Court record linking the two names

USAccess requires that linking document be scanned into the *Document 3* window located on the USAccess Enrolment page.

U.S. Passport



Image of the front of the U.S. Passport card

USA
Surname
TRAVELLER
Given names
JOHN A
Sex
M
Date of Birth
01 JAN 1981
Place of Birth
NEW YORK, USA
Issued On
15 MAY 08
Expires On
15 MAY 18
A123456
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE



Passport Card front and back

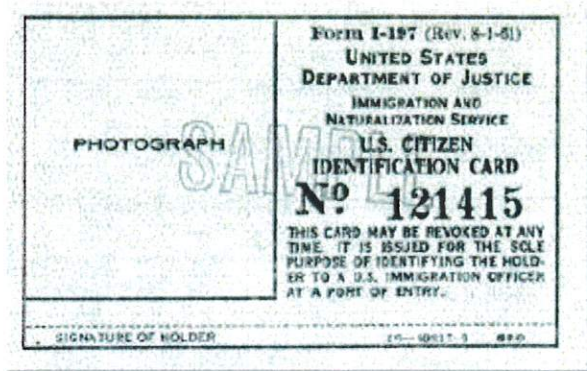
The information contained in this document is proprietary and may not be transmitted or disclosed to anyone outside of the Government or authorized representatives without written permission.



Upon endorsement serves as temporary I-551 evidencing permanent residence for 1 year

Temporary I-551 printed notation on a machine-readable immigrant visa (MRIV)

U.S. Citizen ID Card (Form I-179) - Must Have Photograph



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<p>Document de Voyage de Réfugié</p>			<p>Document Number: 800000001</p>		
<p>John Doe</p>			<p>Country of Origin: VIET</p>		
<p>Date of Birth: 12 MAY 1941</p>			<p>Date of Issuance: 12 MAY 1941</p>		
<p>Place of Birth: Hanoi, Vietnam</p>			<p>Place of Issuance: Hanoi, Vietnam</p>		
<p>Signature: [Signature]</p>			<p>Signature: [Signature]</p>		
<p>Stamp: [Stamp]</p>			<p>Stamp: [Stamp]</p>		



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

PERMANENT RESIDENT

SURNAME
SPECIMEN

GIVEN NAME
TEST V

USCIS#
000-000-001

CATEGORY
RE8

COUNTRY OF BIRTH
Utopia

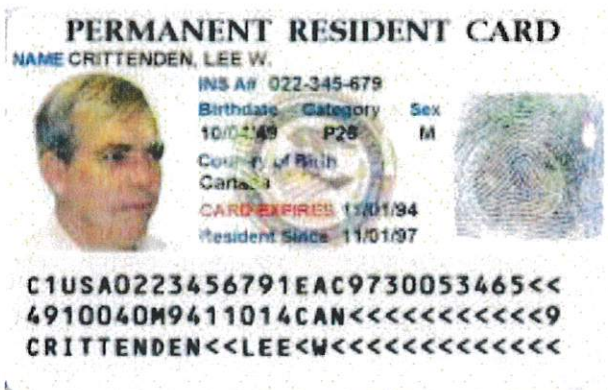
DATE OF BIRTH
01 JAN 1920

SEX
F

CARD EXPIRES:
08/21/07

RESIDENT SINCE:
08/21/07

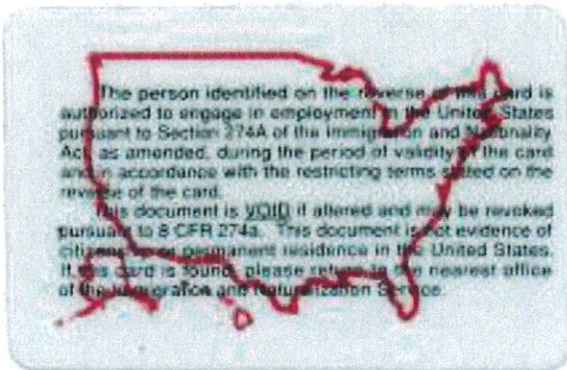
Test V, Specimen



Page 9



Employment Authorization Document (Card) with photograph (Form I-688)



The information contained in this document is proprietary and may not be transmitted or disclosed to anyone outside of the Government or authorized representatives without written permission.

Employment Authorization Document (Card) with photograph (Form I-766)



Certificate of naturalization (Form N-550 or N-570)



The information contained in this document is proprietary and may not be transmitted or disclosed to anyone outside of the Government or authorized representatives without written permission.

Birth Certificate Issues by State

CERTIFICATION OF VITAL RECORD
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
COPY OF CERTIFICATE OF BIRTH
State of Rhode Island

VOID

Child's Name: John Doe
 Sex: Male
 Date of Birth: Feb. 2, 2002
 Place of Birth: The Memorial Hospital, Pawtucket, Providence, Rhode Island
 Date of Certificate: Feb. 2, 2002

SAMPLE

Registrar's Office: STATE OFFICE, PROVIDENCE
 Date of Issue: SEP 11 2002

The information contained in this document is proprietary and may not be transmitted or disclosed to anyone outside of the Government or authorized representatives without written permission.

Certification of Birth Abroad Issued by the U.S. Department of State

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Certification of Birth Abroad
of a Citizen of the United States of America

This is to certify that, according to records on file in this Office:

See WALE was born at LA PAZ, HOSPITAL, COLUMBIA, JAPAN
on AUGUST 1, 1990 Date of birth reported on SEPTEMBER 10, 1990

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed the seal of the Consular Service of the United States of America at SANKU, JAPAN
this TEN day of SEPTEMBER 1990

(SEAL) _____
CONSUL of the United States of America

WARNING: This certificate is not valid if it has been altered in any way whatsoever or if it does not bear the signed seal of the Office of Issuance.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Certification of Report of Birth
of a United States Citizen

This is to certify that the birth of INA SAMPLE born at DESOLATION MONGOLIA
on APRIL 1, 1990 was registered with the Consular Service of the United States and a
Consular Report of Birth was issued at BISHKOK, KYRGYZSTAN
on SEPTEMBER 10, 1990

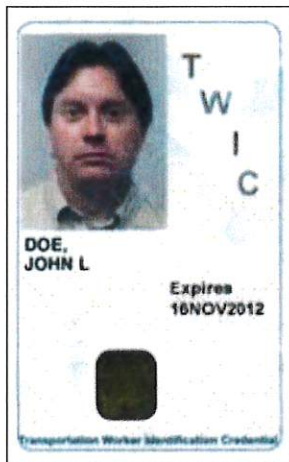
Father: DADDY SAMPLE Mother: MOMMY SAMPLE
Date of Birth: APRIL 1, 1990 Date of Birth: APRIL 1, 1990

CONDOLINEA RICE
Secretary of State
Washington Office, Washington, D.C.
OCTOBER 31, 2004
Date

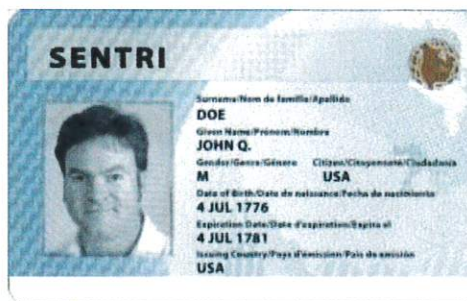
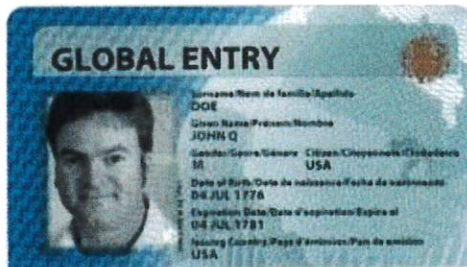
WARNING: This certificate is not valid if it has been altered in any way whatsoever or if it does not bear the signed seal of the Office of Issuance.

The information contained in this document is proprietary and may not be transmitted or disclosed to anyone outside of the Government or authorized representatives without written permission.

TSA Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC)



DHS Trusted Traveler Cards



The information contained in this document is proprietary and may not be transmitted or disclosed to anyone outside of the Government or authorized representatives without written permission.

Personal Identity Verification- Interoperable (PIV-I) Credential

WHAT IS A PIV-I CREDENTIAL?

PIV-I is a standards-based credential issued by the USAccess Program to individuals who may not qualify for a PIV card. It provides physical and logical access to Federal buildings and systems when and where Agencies deem appropriate. The enrollment and identity proofing processes for PIV-I are the exact same as the processes used for PIV.

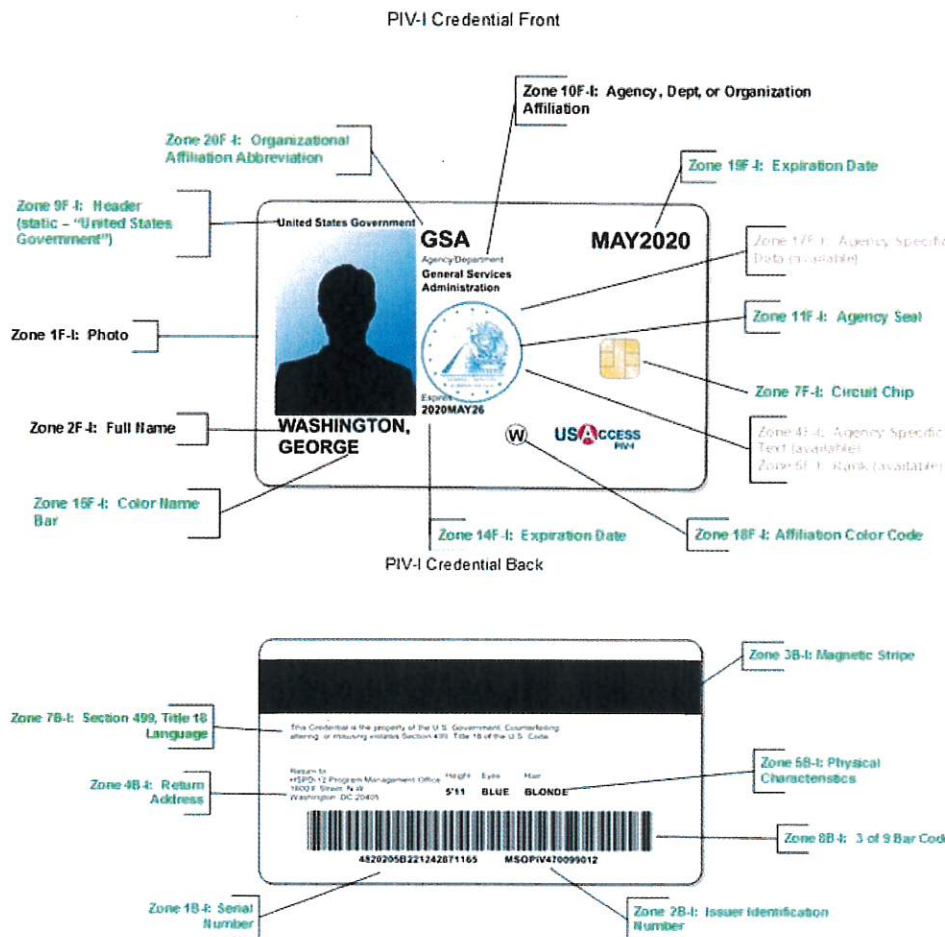
WHO GETS A PIV-I CREDENTIAL?

Not all USAccess Customer Agencies have opted-in to use PIV-I, and of those Agencies, only a small subset of Applicants are issued PIV-I credentials. Examples include, but are not limited to, Foreign Nationals who have not been in the country long enough to receive a full background investigation, short-term employees and contractors, or anyone the Agency determines should have a PIV-I credential rather than a PIV credential.

HOW DO I HANDLE ENROLLMENTS/ACTIVATIONS FOR PIV-I CREDENTIALS?

The enrollment and identity proofing processes for PIV and PIV-I are exactly the same. Activators should follow the same process to activate PIV-I cards as they do with PIV cards.

WHAT DOES A PIV-I CREDENTIAL LOOK LIKE?



For more information, please contact your Agency Lead or the GSA MSO:
GSAMSO@gsa.gov.



U.S. Department of
Homeland Security

Homeland Security Presidential Directive 12: Policy for a Common Identification Standard for Federal Employees and Contractors

There are wide variations in the quality and security of identification used to gain access to secure facilities where there is potential for terrorist attacks. In order to eliminate these variations, U.S. policy is to enhance security, increase Government efficiency, reduce identity fraud, and protect personal privacy by establishing a mandatory, Government-wide standard for secure and reliable forms of identification issued by the Federal Government to its employees and contractors (including contractor employees). This directive mandates a federal standard for secure and reliable forms of identification.

HSPD 12 Full Text (#)

Homeland Security Presidential Directive-12

August 27, 2004

SUBJECT: Policies for a Common Identification Standard for Federal Employees and Contractors

1. Wide variations in the quality and security of forms of identification used to gain access to secure Federal and other facilities where there is potential for terrorist attacks need to be eliminated. Therefore, it is the policy of the United States to enhance security, increase Government efficiency, reduce identity fraud, and protect personal privacy by establishing a mandatory, Government-wide standard for secure and reliable forms of

identification issued by the Federal Government to its employees and contractors (including contractor employees).

2. To implement the policy set forth in paragraph (1), the Secretary of Commerce shall promulgate in accordance with applicable law a Federal standard for secure and reliable forms of identification (the "Standard") not later than 6 months after the date of this directive in consultation with the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense, the Attorney General, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy. The Secretary of Commerce shall periodically review the Standard and update the Standard as appropriate in consultation with the affected agencies.
3. "Secure and reliable forms of identification" for purposes of this directive means identification that (a) is issued based on sound criteria for verifying an individual employee's identity; (b) is strongly resistant to identity fraud, tampering, counterfeiting, and terrorist exploitation; (c) can be rapidly authenticated electronically; and (d) is issued only by providers whose reliability has been established by an official accreditation process. The Standard will include graduated criteria, from least secure to most secure, to ensure flexibility in selecting the appropriate level of security for each application. The Standard shall not apply to identification associated with national security systems as defined by 44 U.S.C. 3542(b)(2).
4. Not later than 4 months following promulgation of the Standard, the heads of executive departments and agencies shall have a program in place to ensure that identification issued by their departments and agencies to Federal employees and contractors meets the Standard. As promptly as possible, but in no case later than 8 months after the date of promulgation of the Standard, the heads of executive departments and agencies shall, to the maximum extent practicable, require the use of identification by Federal employees and contractors that meets the Standard in gaining physical access to Federally controlled facilities and logical access to Federally controlled information systems. Departments and agencies shall implement this directive in a manner consistent with ongoing Government-wide activities, policies and guidance issued by OMB, which shall ensure compliance.
5. Not later than 6 months following promulgation of the Standard, the heads of executive departments and agencies shall identify to the Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and the Director of OMB those Federally controlled facilities, Federally controlled information systems, and other Federal applications that are important for security and for which use of the Standard in circumstances not covered by this directive should be considered. Not later than 7 months following the promulgation of

the Standard, the Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and the Director of OMB shall make recommendations to the President concerning possible use of the Standard for such additional Federal applications.

6. This directive shall be implemented in a manner consistent with the Constitution and applicable laws, including the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a) and other statutes protecting the rights of Americans.
7. Nothing in this directive alters, or impedes the ability to carry out, the authorities of the Federal departments and agencies to perform their responsibilities under law and consistent with applicable legal authorities and presidential guidance. This directive is intended only to improve the internal management of the executive branch of the Federal Government, and it is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, entities, officers, employees or agents, or any other person.
8. The Assistant to the President for Homeland Security shall report to me not later than 7 months after the promulgation of the Standard on progress made to implement this directive, and shall thereafter report to me on such progress or any recommended changes from time to time as appropriate.

GEORGE W. BUSH

###

COVID-19 Pandemic Temporary Credentialing Procedures (#)

The DHS Office of the Chief Security Officer (OCSO) is committed to protecting our workforce during the COVID-19 pandemic. To support social distancing requirements, OCSO is offering an alternate DHS credential known as a Derived Alternate Credential (DAC) to employees in lieu of a DHS Personal Identity Verification (PIV) credential so that personnel can still gain logical access to the DHS network without visiting a DHS Credentialing Facility (DCF). Personnel who obtain a DAC will have to get a DHS PIV Card later. Additional information can be found on the [Security Information and Reference Materials \(/publication/security\)_page](#).

Additional Resources (#)



Search FedIDCard.gov

Search

[Home \(/\)](#) » [Credential Info \(/credential-information\)](#)

Your Credential

Identity management has become an important part of our homeland security since September 11, 2001. The 9/11 Commission Report recommends that all federal employees or contractors be screened with biometric identifiers across all government agencies as a global strategy to protect against terrorist attacks.

The U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) developed the USAccess Program as an efficient way for federal agencies to issue common HSPD-12 approved credentials to their employees and contractors. You will receive a USAccess credential if your agency has elected to participate in the USAccess Program. (You may hear the credential referred to with another name within your agency because some agencies have opted to re-brand their program and credential.)

- [Why do I need this card?](#)
- [What information about me is stored on this card?](#)
- [How does this credential ensure my security?](#)
- [Your roles and responsibilities as a credential holder](#)
- [Maintaining your USAccess credential](#)
- [How to obtain a credential](#)
- [Steps to obtain a credential](#)

Most of the contents of this page are also printed in the [About The USAccess Credential Guide \(/document/about-usaccess-credential?download=1\)](#).

Why Do I Need This Card?

As a federal employee or contractor, you may need your USAccess credential in order to gain access to buildings and systems for which you are authorized. Over time, all existing federally issued badges will be replaced with a PIV-compliant credential. Without a PIV credential, you may not be able to enter certain buildings, or will need to be registered as a guest.

What Information about me is Stored on this Card?

The information about you that is stored on your PIV credential includes:

- A printed picture of your face
- Your full name
- Agency and organization with which you are associated
- Credential expiration date
- Credential serial number
- Agency particular data and an issuer identification number
- Your Personal Identification Number (PIN)
- Two electronic fingerprint templates
- Digital certificates

The digital certificates stored on your credential can be used for authenticating your identity, digital signatures, and encrypting email.

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How Does This Credential Ensure My Security?

Your credential can ensure your security by allowing you to easily, quickly, and reliably identify yourself to any federal agency using a single credential, as well as, trust the identity of other USAccess credential holders.

Your Roles and Responsibilities as a Credential Holder

As a USAccess credential holder, you have important responsibilities to do your part to safeguard the security of the nation, your fellow employees, and yourself.

1. Safeguard Your PIN:

When activating your card, you will be prompted to select a unique PIN. Your new PIN:

- Must contain 6-8 numbers
- Must not be too simple (e.g., 1234)
- Must not contain number strings (e.g., 4444)
- Must be correctly confirmed

IMPORTANT: Never store your PIN with your USAccess credential or share your PIN with anyone!

2. Report Lost or Stolen Cards Immediately:

Contact your agency's security officer if you have lost your credential or believe it has been tampered with. Your current credential will be terminated, and the process for issuing you a new credential will be initiated.

3. Know Your Privacy Rights:

View the complete directives and policies governing the USAccess Program available on this website and the USAccess Privacy Statement ([/document/usaccess-privacy-act-statement?download=1](#)). It is important that you understand how data is collected and stored on your USAccess credential, not only for your security, but also as a reminder of how important it is to protect and safeguard your credential.

Maintaining Your USAccess Credential

It is your responsibility to protect your USAccess credential and exercise the same care with it as you do with other identification credentials. For best protection, please keep your card in your badge holder when not in use.

Other Protective Measures:

- Do not mark on, punch holes in, or bend your credential, as this will void the card warranty and could cause the protective plastic covering to peel away prematurely.
- Do not scratch the magnetic stripe on your credential
- Avoid storing your credential in areas subject to excessive heat (e.g., clothes dryer) or in direct sunlight (e.g. car dashboards) as the card could warp.
- Do not allow the credential near magnetic fields (e.g., stereo equipment, magnets, or other magnetic stripe cards, etc.)

Updating or Rekeying Your Credential Certificates

Your USAccess credential contains digital certificates. The certificates must be renewed 3 years after initial activation to keep your credential active. The start of the 3 year period begins on the day your credential is activated when the certificates are encoded on your card. As the certificate renewal date of your credential nears you will be contacted by email (i.e., 90, 60 and 30 days before expiration) to make an appointment at a nearby enrollment/activation center to update your certificates. If you do not update your certificates your credential will be terminated.

Renewing Your Credential:

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 credential. As the expiration date of your credential [CLICK HERE \(/important-covid-19-news\)](#) an appointment at a nearby
 enrollment/activation center to renew your credential.

How To Obtain A Credential

Acceptable Forms of ID



(/document/acceptable-forms-id?download=1)

View a List of

Acceptable Forms of Identification (/document/acceptable-forms-id?download=1)

How and when applicants get their credentials is based on when their agency decides they are eligible to receive them. GSA MSO does not decide when applicants are eligible to receive their credentials. If you have any questions about when you will be receiving your credential, contact your agency's supervisor.

Steps To Obtain A Credential



(/sites/all/themes/gsa_fedidcard/images/legacy/credentialflow_large.gif)

Steps to Achieve
 an Active Credential
 (select for full image)

The USAccess Program has developed an integrated, end-to-end system to automate and ease the process of issuing a credential to applicants.

The 9 steps to obtain a credential include:

- Step 1: Applicant data is entered into the USAccess system by agency
- Step 2: Applicant received an email invitation to enroll
- Step 3: Applicant schedules an enrollment appointment online
- Step 4: Applicant attends enrollment appointment as scheduled
- Step 5: Agency completes background checks and approves applicant
- Step 6: Applicant receives email that credential is ready for pick up and to make an appointment to activate the credential
- Step 7: Applicant schedules an activation appointment online
- Step 8: Applicant attends appointment and activates credential
- Step 9: Credential is now active and ready to use

Step 1: Applicant data is entered into the USAccess system.

Applicant data such as name, address, date of birth, employee type, and Emergency Response Official (ERO) status is entered into the system by the sponsoring agency. This completes the applicant sponsorship record in the USAccess system.

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 Step 2: Applicant receives an email invitation to enroll. COVID-19 information [CLICK HERE \(/important-covid-19-news\)](#)

COVID-19 information [CLICK HERE \(/important-covid-19-news\)](#) or in the USAAccess Information [CLICK HERE \(/important-covid-19-news\)](#)

- The email lists the applicant's name and asks the applicant to verify that his or her name is correct.
- Next, the email describes how identity documents must match the name. A link is provided to a document outlining the proper forms of identification that applicants must bring with them to their enrollment appointment. (List of Acceptable Forms of ID (/document/acceptable-forms-id?download=1)).
- If the applicant notices that the name in the email is incorrect and does not match any of their other identity documents, the applicant should contact the agency sponsor before going to enroll.
- The email also provides instructions on how to make an appointment to enroll for the credential at a USAccess center. A link to the GSA Online Scheduling System (<https://portal.usaccess.gsa.gov/scheduler>) (if used by the agency) is provided for applicants to schedule appointments.

Step 3: Applicant schedules an enrollment appointment online.

Using the GSA Online Scheduling System, the applicant makes an appointment (/credential-appointments) to enroll for the USAccess credential.

- The applicant must first create an account in the scheduling system, and then make an appointment at a nearby center. To find an available center nearby, visit Find USAccess Centers (/find-usaccess-centers). Account setup typically takes less than 5 minutes.
- Once the appointment is made, the applicant will receive a confirmation email confirming the date and time of the appointment.
- Before traveling to a USAccess credentialing center for an appointment, the GSA MSO encourages applicants to check the advisory section located near the top of the USAccess website home page, <http://www.fedidcard.gsa.gov> (/). Occasionally, the system may be experiencing difficulties or a center may be closed and the applicant's appointment may be affected.
- Note: Service Advisories are updated three times daily, so applicants should check for updates before traveling. If an appointment is canceled by the center, an email will be sent to the applicant noting the appointment was canceled and will request the applicant to make a new appointment.

Step 4: Applicant attends enrollment appointment as scheduled.

During the enrollment appointment, the applicant must present proper identification documents (List of Acceptable Forms of ID (/document/acceptable-forms-id?download=1)) to the registrar at the center, have a photo taken, and have fingerprints captured using an electronic fingerprint capturing system. Provided there are no issues during the enrollment process, the appointment typically takes 15-20 minutes.

If the applicant notices that any information in their record is incorrect prior to the appointment, the applicant must contact the agency sponsor (see FAQs on how to locate your Sponsor (/faq/8)). The registrar is not able to make changes to applicant sponsorship record during the enrollment process.

Step 5: Agency completes background checks and approves applicant.

Following a successful enrollment appointment, a background check is conducted on the applicant by the sponsoring agency. Once the background check is completed, the agency adjudicator will record the adjudication decision for the applicant in the USAccess system. When adjudication is complete and approved, the applicant's credential is printed and shipped to the pick up location.

Step 6: Applicant receives email that credential is ready for pick up and to make an appointment to activate the credential.

When the applicant's credential is ready for pickup, the applicant will receive an email explaining where to pick up the credential. The applicant will also be prompted to make an appointment in the GSA Online Scheduling system to activate the credential.

IMPORTANT NOTE: This email may also contain the temporary one time use password that is needed to activate the

credential for self-activation. Applicants must bring this password with them to their appointment or they may experience difficulties during Activation. COVID-19 information [CLICK HERE \(/important-covid-19-news\)](#)

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Step 7: Applicant schedules an activation appointment online.

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Using the GSA Online Scheduling System, (<https://portal.usaccess.gsa.gov/scheduler>) or other system per agency:

- The applicant makes an appointment to activate their USAccess credential.
- The applicant logs on to the GSA Scheduling System with the account user name and password. If the applicant cannot remember the user name and password created to make an enrollment appointment, a new account can be created.
- Once logged on, the applicant can make an appointment at the center listed in their "Credential Ready for Pick up" email. Account setup typically takes less than 5 minutes.
- Once the appointment is made, the applicant will receive a confirmation email confirming the date and time of the appointment.

NOTE: If your agency has deployed Light Activation stations, you have the opportunity to use one of those locations to have your credential activated. The GSA Online Scheduling System is not used to make appointments at Light Activation stations at this time. Please contact your agency's program management office or check your agency's intranet for information about Light Activation stations available for your use.

Step 8: Applicant attends appointment and activates credential.

The applicant visits an activation station, and activates the credential using Attended or Unattended Activation. Attended Activation is performed by the activator. Applicants are encouraged to attempt activation unassisted. Please see the Unattended Credential Activities Guide (</document/unattended-activation-activities-guide?download=1>) for more information on how to complete these steps.

During activation, the applicant is prompted for their temporary password. This password is contained in the "Credential Ready for Pick Up" email sent to the applicant. The applicant's credential is then "personalized" with security certificates and the applicant is prompted to create a PIN for the USAccess credential. Applicants will also be prompted to digitally sign a USAccess Privacy Statement (</document/usaccess-privacy-act-statement?download=1>) that explains the USAccess credential holder responsibilities. Provided there are no issues in activating the credential, this appointment can take as little as 10 minutes.

Step 9: Credential is now active and ready to use.

USAccess credential holders can now use the credential and should care for their USAccess credential as they would any other valuable form of personal identification. For guidance on how to care for the credential, as well as what information is stored on the credential, view the Your Credential page and the About the USAccess Credential Guide (</document/about-usaccess-credential?download=1>) located on this website.

Print This Page (<https://www.fedidcard.gov/print/your-credential>)

Email This Link (mailto:?

subject=GSA%20USAccess%20Program%3A%20Your%20Credential&body=I%20think%20you%20might%20like%20to%20see%20this%20credential%22%3EYour%20Credential%3C/a%3E)

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U.S. General Services Administration

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