

## Helpful Tips on Locating Your I-94 Record\*

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### 1. Go to <http://cbp.gov/I94> to access your I-94 record.

(You may need to wait 2-3 days after arrival in the U.S. for the system to update with your information.)

### 2. Ensure data is entered correctly in all applicable fields:

- a. **Enter the name as stated in the passport, visa, or the submitted Form DS-160.** Although U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has stated it would draw the name for the Form I-94 from the travel document (e.g., passport biographic page), that is not always the case. The instructions on CBP's website state that the name is drawn from the visa, if any. Therefore, check the passport, visa, and a copy of the submitted Form DS-160 (if available) for name variations. Try entering the name as stated on each document.
- b. **Enter the first and middle name in the First Name field.** In the first name field, type the first and the middle name (if any) with a space in between. Do this even if the middle name is not stated on the passport or visa.
- c. **Switch the order of the names.** Switch the last and first name when entering the information on the website. Some countries state the name in the passport as first name, last name, rather than the more standard order of last name, first name. This may cause the name to be recorded incorrectly in the CBP system.
- d. **Enter multiple first names or multiple last names without spaces.** If a person has two first names or two last names, type the first names without a space between them or the last names without a space between them. Example: type the first names "Mary Jane" as "Maryjane"
- e. **Check for birthdate.** Try inverting the month and day. *Example:* Birth Date July 9, 1980 correctly entered would be 1980 July 09; try instead 1980 September 07.

Note: an incorrect DOB in the entry record may cause SSA and DMV to be unable to verify the record, so Deferred Inspection may need to correct this. Please see further notes on contacting CBP below.

- f. **Check for multiple passport numbers.** Check the Form DS-160 (if available) for the passport number stated. If the passport number on the Form DS-160 is different than the passport number on which the person was admitted, type the passport number as stated on the submitted Form DS-160. Also, check the passport number stated on the visa. If the passport number is different than the current passport, enter the passport number stated on the visa. Additional tips:
  - i. When both letters and numbers appear in the passport number, try entering a space after the letter(s). Example: Passport number LA497327: try entering LA 497327.
  - ii. Also try the passport booklet number; sometimes the booklet number differs from the number on the bio page.
  - iii. If the valid visa is in an expired passport, try entering the old passport number instead of the new one used for entry.
  - iv. For Mexican passport entries, try eliminating the first 2 digits of the passport number. Also try dropping the last 2 digits.
- g. **Do not enter the year if included in the passport number.** Some passport numbers may begin with the year in which the passport was issued, causing the number to be too long for the relevant field in CBP's automation system. If relevant, try entering the passport number without the year. For example, a Mexican passport that was issued in 2008 may have a passport number that starts with "08" followed by nine digits. Try entering the passport number without the "08." This problem should not arise for newer Mexican passports, as those passports do not begin with the year.
- h. **Check the Classification.** Check the classification designated on the visa and compare it to the classification stated on the admission stamp in the passport, as there may be a slight variation. Be sure to try both designations. For example, the visa may state "E-3D" for an E-3 dependent, but the admission stamp may state only "E-3." The automated I-94 could state the classification either way.

### 3. Visit the Deferred Inspection office.

If none of the above efforts resolve the issue, visit the CBP Deferred Inspection Office in downtown San Diego and explain the problem. The San Diego Deferred Inspection Office requires an in-person visit; Contact information for the San Diego Deferred Inspection Offices can be found on CBP's website (<http://www.cbp.gov>),

\* These tips were assembled by the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA)