



Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) Program Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the SAVE Program?

A: The Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) Program is an intergovernmental, information-sharing initiative designed to aid Federal, state and local benefit-issuing agencies and licensing bureaus in verifying an applicant's immigration status, thereby ensuring that only eligible persons receive public benefits and licenses.

Q: What is the cost of the SAVE program to the user?

A: The cost of access to the Verification Information System (VIS) Customer Processing System (CPS) varies by access method. Currently five access methods are available: Web-Based (Web-1, Web-2, Web-3); Computer Matching (SFTP Priority Batch); and Web Services. The transaction cost varies from \$.20 to \$.26 per query for an Initial Verification and from \$.24 to \$.48 for an Additional Verification.

Q: What is the system's response time?

A: For agencies using VIS-CPS, the response time for an Initial Verification is typically 3-5 seconds. Additional Verification requests, in most cases, are processed within 3-5 Federal government workdays. For agencies using the manual verification method (Form G-845), the response time for mandated agencies is within 10 Federal government workdays from receipt of the request by an Immigration Status Verification Unit and is negotiable with all other user agencies, usually 20 working days.

Q: What safeguards exist in the SAVE system to prevent benefit granting agencies and licensing bureaus from erroneously denying a benefit?

A: Under the SAVE program, an applicant is never denied a benefit or license based solely upon the response from an Initial Verification. An Additional Verification (automated or manual) procedure is in place as a precautionary measure.

Q: For what programs must benefit providers verify an applicant's immigration status?

A: Verification is mandatory for Federal public benefit programs. State and local agencies may also be mandated by state law to verify immigration status