

## Department of State

## § 51.4

States, the Canal Zone, American Samoa, Guam and any other islands or territory over which the United States exercises jurisdiction.

(b) *Department* means the Department of State of the United States of America.

(c) *Secretary* means the Secretary of State.

(d) *National* means a citizen of the United States or a noncitizen owing permanent allegiance to the United States.

(e) *Passport* means a travel document issued under the authority of the Secretary of State attesting to the identity and nationality of the bearer.

(f) *Passport Agent* means a person designated by the Department to accept passport applications.

(g) *Passport Issuing Office* means the Passport Office, a Passport Agency, a Passport Agent of the Department, or a Foreign Service Post authorized to issue passports.

(h) *Designated nationality examiner* means a person designated under § 50.1(g) of this subchapter.

[31 FR 13540, Oct. 20, 1966, as amended at 31 FR 14522, Nov. 11, 1966; 61 FR 43312, Aug. 22, 1996]

### Subpart A—General

#### § 51.2 Passport issued to nationals only.

(a) A United States passport shall be issued only to a national of the United States (22 U.S.C. 212).

(b) Unless authorized by the Department no person shall bear more than one valid or potentially valid U.S. passport at any one time.

[SD-165, 46 FR 2343, Jan. 9, 1981]

#### § 51.3 Types of passports.

(a) *Regular passport*. A regular passport is issued to a national of the United States proceeding abroad for personal or business reasons.

(b) *Official passport*. An official passport is issued to an official or employee of the U.S. Government proceeding abroad in the discharge of official duties. Where appropriate, dependents of such persons may be issued official passports.

(c) *Diplomatic passport*. A diplomatic passport is issued to a Foreign Service Officer, a person in the diplomatic service or to a person having diplomatic status either because of the nature of his or her foreign mission or by reason of the office he or she holds. Where appropriate, dependents of such persons may be issued diplomatic passports.

(22 U.S.C. 2658 and 3926)

[31 FR 13540, Oct. 20, 1966, as amended at 49 FR 16989, Apr. 23, 1984]

#### § 51.4 Validity of passports.

(a) *Signature of bearer*. A passport is valid only when signed by the bearer in the space designated for his signature.

(b) *Period of validity of a regular passport*.

(1) A regular passport issued on or after February 1, 1998, to an applicant 16 years of age or older is valid for 10 years from date of issue unless limited by the Secretary to a shorter period.

(2) A regular passport issued on or after February 1, 1998 to an applicant under the age of 16 years is valid for 5 years from date of issue unless limited by the Secretary of State to a shorter period.

(3) The period of validity of a regular passport issued on or after January 1, 1983, and before February 1, 1998, unless limited by the Secretary of State to a shorter period is: 10 years from date of issue if issued to an applicant age 18 or older; five years from date of issue if issued to an applicant under age 18.

(4) The period of validity of a regular passport issued prior to January 1, 1983, is five years from date of issue.

(c) *Period of validity of an official passport*. An official passport is normally valid for a period of 5 years from the date of issue as long as the bearer maintains the official status for which it is issued. It must be returned to the Department upon the termination of the bearer's official status.

(d) *Period of validity of a diplomatic passport*. A diplomatic passport issued on or after January 1, 1977 is valid for a period of five (5) years or so long as the bearer maintains his/her diplomatic status, whichever is shorter. A