9 FAM APPENDIX D, 300
MACHINE READABLE NONIMMIGRANT VISA (MRV)

(CT:VISA-1176; 04-02-2009)
(Office of Origin: CA/VO/L/R)

9 FAM APPENDIX D, 301 MODERNIZED NIV SYSTEMS

(CT:VISA-1176; 04-02-2009)

A machine readable visa (MRV) was mandated by The Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988 and provided the legal underpinnings and funding for MRV. MRV was first installed at Santo Domingo as a pilot program in September 1989, working together with nonimmigrant visa computer assisted processing system (NIVCAPS), the predecessor to the current modernized nonimmigrant Visas (NIV) system. It integrated a photograph into the visa and included an encoded (machine-readable) zone in conformity with a format established by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). The Department completed worldwide installation of the current NIV system issuing a MRV in *Fiscal Year* 1999.

9 FAM APPENDIX D, 302 FUNCTIONS

(CT:VISA-1176; 04-02-2009)

a. The current modernized NIV system automates and streamlines the post's capabilities for processing applicant, vessel, petition, and diplomatic note data, viewing results from name-checks, recording the decision of the adjudicating officer, and printing the MRV. It performs all the functions necessary to produce an MRV.

b. The NIV system includes security features that protect the integrity of the system and protects it from the use for fraudulent reasons. Although Foreign Service nationals (FSNs) at all posts are responsible for data entry and visa printing, a Foreign Service *Officer (FSO)* must be responsible for the adjudication of the application and authorization for issuance. As an additional security feature to these standard procedures, the system was designed *so* that no visa can be issued without an officer actually entering the system to register his or her approval. Although this takes an extra few seconds of an officer's time per visa, this internal

control feature provides an exceptional security enhancement.

9 FAM APPENDIX D, 303 DATA ENTRY

(CT:VISA-1176;   04-02-2009)

The NIV system allows data entry manually by using the keyboard or by scanning the machine readable zone (MRZ) in machine readable documents. Scanning is accomplished by using the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT) readers included as one of the NIV system's hardware components. In addition, posts may use the Consular Affairs (CA) developed application known as the remote data entry system (RDS) which allows travel agents and other approved groups to perform NIV application data entry off-site, providing the data to the post by diskette. Data entered by scanning or RDS must be carefully checked for accuracy.

9 FAM APPENDIX D, 304 NAME-CHECK

(CT:VISA-1176;   04-02-2009)

The NIV system carries out name-checks and stores the results of each query, preserving the data for visa lookout accountability (VLA) review. NIV interfaces with consular lookout and support system (CLASS) through the telecommunications manager (TCM). When the communications line or CLASS is not available, TCM holds the name-checks for transmission when service is restored. Name-check results are included in the NIV application data replicated to Consular Affairs Consular Consolidated Database (CCD).

9 FAM APPENDIX D, 305 ADJUDICATION AND PRINT AUTHORIZATION

(CT:VISA-1176;   04-02-2009)

To ensure that only properly designated personnel may authorize or refuse nonimmigrant visas (*NIV*), consular management controls access to adjudication and print authorization functions. The NIV system records the user authorizing issuance and certain other actions.

9 FAM APPENDIX D, 306 VISA PRINTING

(CT:VISA-1176;   04-02-2009)

The MRV printing process includes capturing an applicant photo, printing a visa, and going through the quality assurance test with the AIT reader. A visa cannot be printed until the name-check and authorization process are

completed.

9 FAM APPENDIX D, 307 REFUSAL INFORMATION

(CT:VISA-1176; 04-02-2009)

Refusal information is added to CLASS automatically by the NIV system and to the local NIV lookout files created in the Distributed Name Check System (DNC). Records of all issued and refused cases are stored in the local NIV system database and can be retrieved by queries that display applicant data and issuance or refusal data.

9 FAM APPENDIX D, 308 REPORTS

(CT:VISA-1176; 04-02-2009)

Case tracking, record keeping, and production of management and accountability reports are key parts of the NIV and/or MRV system. Adjudication, name-check, issuance and refusal data, including photos, is replicated from all visa issuing posts to the Consular Affairs Consolidated Database, for access by Department offices, posts, and sharing with other U.S. Government agencies.