

§ 1379. Technology standard to confirm identity**(1) In general**

The Attorney General and the Secretary of State jointly, through the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), and in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury and other Federal law enforcement and intelligence agencies the Attorney General or Secretary of State deems appropriate and in consultation with Congress, shall within 15 months after October 26, 2001, develop and certify a technology standard, including appropriate biometric identifier standards, that can be used to verify the identity of persons applying for a United States visa or such persons seeking to enter the United States pursuant to a visa for the purposes of conducting background checks, confirming identity, and ensuring that a person has not received a visa under a different name or such person seeking to enter the United States pursuant to a visa.

(2) Interoperable

The technology standard developed pursuant to paragraph (1), shall be the technological basis for a cross-agency, cross-platform electronic system that is a cost-effective, efficient, fully interoperable means to share law enforcement and intelligence information necessary to confirm the identity of such persons applying for a United States visa or such person seeking to enter the United States pursuant to a visa.

(3) Accessible

The electronic system described in paragraph (2), once implemented, shall be readily and easily accessible to—

(A) all consular officers responsible for the issuance of visas;

(B) all Federal inspection agents at all United States border inspection points; and

(C) all law enforcement and intelligence officers as determined by regulation to be responsible for investigation or identification of aliens admitted to the United States pursuant to a visa.

(4) Report

Not later than one year after October 26, 2001, and every 2 years thereafter, the Attorney General and the Secretary of State shall jointly, in consultation with the Secretary of Treasury, report to Congress describing the development, implementation, efficacy, and privacy implications of the technology standard and electronic database system described in this section.

(5) Funding

There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, and the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology such sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this section.

(Pub. L. 107-56, title IV, § 403(c), Oct. 26, 2001, 115 Stat. 344; Pub. L. 107-173, title II, §§ 201(c)(5), 202(a)(4)(B), May 14, 2002, 116 Stat. 548, 549.)

Editorial Notes**CODIFICATION**

Section was enacted as part of the Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools

Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism Act of 2001 or USA PATRIOT Act, and not as part of the Immigration and Nationality Act which comprises this chapter.

AMENDMENTS

2002—Par. (1). Pub. L. 107-173, §§ 201(c)(5)(A), 202(a)(4)(B)(i), substituted “15 months” for “2 years” and inserted “, including appropriate biometric identifier standards,” after “technology standard”.

Par. (2). Pub. L. 107-173, § 202(a)(4)(B)(ii), substituted “Interoperable” for “Integrated” in heading and “interoperable” for “integrated” in text.

Par. (4). Pub. L. 107-173, § 201(c)(5)(B), substituted “one year” for “18 months”.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries**REPORT ON THE INTEGRATED AUTOMATED FINGERPRINT IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM FOR PORTS OF ENTRY AND OVERSEAS CONSULAR POSTS**

Pub. L. 107-56, title IV, § 405, Oct. 26, 2001, 115 Stat. 345, provided that:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General, in consultation with the appropriate heads of other Federal agencies, including the Secretary of State, Secretary of the Treasury, and the Secretary of Transportation, shall report to Congress on the feasibility of enhancing the Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System (IAFIS) of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and other identification systems in order to better identify a person who holds a foreign passport or a visa and may be wanted in connection with a criminal investigation in the United States or abroad, before the issuance of a visa to that person or the entry or exit from the United States by that person.

“(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated not less than \$2,000,000 to carry out this section.”

§ 1380. Maintenance of statistics by the Department of Homeland Security**(a) In general**

The Department of Homeland Security shall maintain statistics regarding petitions filed, approved, extended, and amended with respect to nonimmigrants described in section 1101(a)(15)(L) of this title, including the number of such nonimmigrants who are classified on the basis of specialized knowledge and the number of nonimmigrants who are classified on the basis of specialized knowledge in order to work primarily at offsite locations.

(b) Applicability

Subsection (a) shall apply to petitions filed on or after the effective date of this subtitle.

(Pub. L. 108-447, div. J, title IV, § 414, Dec. 8, 2004, 118 Stat. 3352.)

Editorial Notes**REFERENCES IN TEXT**

This subtitle, referred to in subsec. (b), means subtitle A (§§ 411-417) of title IV of div. J of Pub. L. 108-447. For the effective date of subtitle A, see section 417 of Pub. L. 108-447, set out as an Effective Date of 2004 Amendment note under section 1184 of this title.

CODIFICATION

Section was enacted as part of the L-1 Visa (Intracompany Transferee) Reform Act of 2004, and also as part of the L-1 Visa and H-1B Visa Reform Act and the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2005, and not as part of the Immigration and Nationality Act which comprises this chapter.