

.09 Special Immigrant Visa Holder

REVISION 50
(01/01/22 – 12/31/22)

Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) holders are individuals who enter the United States (U.S.) under a special visa issued by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to Iraqi and Afghani citizens. These visas entitle the noncitizen to the same benefits and services as [refugees](#).

Afghan arrivals or refugees admitted in the United States under the Operation Allies Welcome (OAW) generally fall within one of four arrival categories. OAW, formerly known as OAR (Operation Allies Refuge) is a U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)-led effort across the federal government that began in 07/2021. The goal of this program is to support vulnerable Afghans as they safely resettle in the U.S.

The following are the four arrival categories:

- Special Immigrant Lawful Permanent Resident (SI LPR)
- Special Immigrant Conditional Permanent Resident (SI CPR)

NOTE An SI CPR becomes an SI LPR after DHS removes the conditions on their LPR admission. When these SI CPRs complete a medical examination and USCIS determines they are not medically inadmissible, DHS removes their conditions and they become an SI LPR.

- Special Immigrant Parolee (SI Parolee)
- Non-SI Parolee (sometimes referred to as a “humanitarian parole” or “OAR parole”)

NOTE Some Afghan arrivals may have been eligible for and admitted in one of many other immigration categories, either at the time of their arrival at a port of entry or through a change afterwards.

Afghan SI LPRs and SI CPRs:

Afghan SI LPRs and SI CPRs meet the immigration status requirement for NA and CA benefits under section 602(b)(8) of the

Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2009 (8 U.S.C. § 1101 note).

When all other eligibility requirements are met, these participants are eligible for NA and CA benefits indefinitely without a waiting period.

The SI LPRs generally have foreign passports with a DHS, Customs and Border Protection (CBP) stamp admitting them with any of the followings Class of Admission (COA) codes:

- SQ1 (Arrival - Principal)
- SQ2 (Arrival - Spouse of SQ1)
- SQ3 (Arrival - Unmarried Child of SQ1)
- SQ6 (Adjustment - Principal)
- SQ7 (Adjustment - Spouse of SQ6)
- SQ8 (Adjustment - Child of SQ6)

The SI CPRs generally have foreign-issued passports with a DHS, CBP stamp admitting them with any of the following COA codes:

- CQ1 (Principal)
- CQ2 (Spouse of CQ1)
- CQ3 (Child of CQ1)

Some of the SI LPR or SI CPR arrivals may not have a physical immigrant visa or temporary Form I-551 stamp in their passport. The United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is also issuing a Form I-551, Permanent Resident Card, to these SI LPRs and SI CPRs. In addition, regardless of the documentation presented, the [Verified Legal Presence \(VLP\)](#) in HEAplus can provide initial verification of these arrivals except those whose case involves something unusual that may require additional verification.

Afghan SI Parolees and Non-SI Parolees:

Afghan SI and Non-SI parolees are both paroled into the U.S. under section 212(d)(5) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA). Both groups may have a Form I-766, Employment Authorization Document (EAD), with a C11 category and/or a CBP "PAROLED" stamp in their passport.

The following Afghan SI and Non-SI parolee participants are eligible for NA and CA without a waiting period effective 09/30/2021 until

03/31/2023 or until the end of their parole term, whichever is later:

- Afghan citizens or nationals paroled into the United States between 07/31/2021 and 09/30/2022
- Their spouses or children paroled after 09/30/2022
- Their parents and guardians paroled after 09/30/2022 when the Afghan citizen or national is an unaccompanied child

SI Parolees have a separate, printed page on CBP letterhead with their Form I-94, Arrival-Departure Record. SI Parolees are assigned the following COA codes:

- SQ4 (Principal)
- SQ5 (Dependent)

The printed page contains information including the following notation, and is signed and dated by a USCIS officer:

Special Immigrant Status (SQ/SI) Parolee
Sec 602(b)(1) AAPA / Sec 1059(a) NDAA 2006
Date _____ USCIS officer: _____

Non-SI parolees may also have a Form I-94 printed from the CBP Form I-94 website with any of the following COA codes:

- OAR (CBP implemented August 2021)
- PAR, DT (these or other parole COAs used instead of OAR before August and occasionally afterward)

For both SI and Non-SI Parolees, the [Verified Legal Presence \(VLP\)](#) in HEAplus can provide an initial verification response.

The Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) [fact sheet](#) includes detailed information and examples regarding Afghan arrival categories, documentation, and SAVE responses.

Afghan arrivals entering Arizona may contact a Voluntary Agency (VOLAG). When the VOLAG determines that a participant may be eligible for FAA assistance, VOLAG staff assist the participant in completing the official FAA application.

All Afghan arrivals or refugee applications for FAA assistance during their first eight months in the U.S. must be processed at designated

Refugee Offices. The eight months start from the date of the refugee's entry into the U.S. and end on the first day of the ninth month after entry. The arrival month is included in the eight-month count.

An FAA application of an Afghan arrival or refugee must be submitted only to the FAA Refugee Office. When it is discovered that an application of an Afghan non-citizen is submitted in error through HEAplus or to an FAA office other than a Refugee office, transfer the application to the appropriate FAA Refugee office within one workday and complete one of the following:

- Notify the FAA Refugee Unit via an email at FAARefugeUnit@azdes.gov
- Upload the paper application to OnBase
- Fax the paper application to (623) 931-5676

NOTE When faxing documents containing confidential information use the Fax Cover Sheet (DES-1078A) form.

- Change the site code on the CARC screen in AZTECS to one of the following when the case is already keyed:
285 - Applications received in Pima County
169 - Applications received in all other counties.

NOTE After the first eight months are completed, Afghan arrival or refugee applications are processed at any FAA office.