

SEVIS Release 6.15 Final System Changes

February 6, 2014

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The following summarizes the final system changes to Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) with Release 6.15.

SEVIS Batch

An overview of the SEVIS Batch modifications related to exchange visitor program sponsors with Release 6.15 can be found in the SEVIS Batch System Changes – Release 6.15 document on the SEVIS Batch page of ice.gov (<http://www.ice.gov/sevis/schools/batch.htm>). As a reminder, the Batch schema changes for Release 6.15 will impact how **all** sponsors add and update site of activity information. The updated SEVIS Common schema, Create-Update Exchange Visitor schema, and SEVIS Table schema as well as the Release 6.15 Batch Application Program Interface (API) are also available on this page.

J Sponsor Officials

U.S. Address Fields on Form DS-2019

To improve the accuracy of data captured during the creation of the Form DS-2019 for an Exchange Visitor (EV) record, the current U.S. address fields (Address Line 1, Address Line 2, City, State, Zip Code, and Zip Code Extension) will no longer be pre-populated with the Sponsor's address. The current U.S. address fields will not be required during the creation of the Form DS-2019. If any of the current U.S. address fields are entered, the remaining current U.S. address fields will be required.

The current U.S. address fields will also be optional when correcting the SEVIS status of an EV from "Active" to "Initial" or from "Invalid" to "Initial" status and when submitting these same status changes via Reinstatement – Update SEVIS Status request. In addition, if the status of the EV is "Transferred" then the current U.S. address fields will no longer be pre-populated with the Sponsor's address nor will they be required fields when editing the DS-2019 after transfer.

Site of Activity (SOA) Indicator for Summer Work Travel (SWT) Visa Waiver Country

This release will provide the ability for a Responsible Officer (RO)/Alternative Responsible Officer (ARO) to select "Exempt from Pre-placement" as an SOA for an EV when adding the SOA information so that an actual address will not be required for the SOA address. The RO/ARO will use the "Add Site of Activity" function to add either an SOA address or Exempt from Pre-placement as an SOA during the creation of a DS-2019 and while editing a draft DS-2019, or when the status of the EV is "Initial" with no associated visa information. Exempt from Pre-placement can only be added as an SOA if the EV has a category of SWT and the country of citizenship is one of the visa waiver countries listed below. When selecting "Exempt from Pre-placement" as an SOA, the SOA name and address will not be required, and Exempt from Pre-placement will automatically become the primary SOA. When "Exempt from Pre-placement" is the SOA when the DS-2019 is created, a 'Site of Activity Added - Exempt from Pre-placement' history event will be recorded upon creation of the DS-2019.

The RO/ARO will also have the ability to use the "Edit Site of Activity" function while editing a draft DS-2019, to change the SOA address to "Exempt from Pre-placement" if the category of the EV is SWT and the country of citizenship is one of the visa waiver countries listed below. When selecting "Exempt from Pre-placement" as an SOA, the SOA name and address will not be required and "Exempt from Pre-placement" will automatically become the primary SOA.

If the status of the EV is “Initial” and an SOA is added, any previously entered “Exempt from Pre-placement” entries will no longer be able to be marked as the primary SOA and cannot be deleted.

Summer Work Travel (SWT) Visa Waiver Country: Country of Citizenship			
Andorra	France	Lithuania	Slovakia
Australia	Germany	Luxembourg	Slovenia
Austria	Greece	Malta	South Korea
Belgium	Hungary	Monaco	Spain
Brunei	Iceland	the Netherlands	Sweden
Canada	Ireland	New Zealand	Switzerland
Czech Republic	Italy	Norway	Taiwan
Denmark	Japan	Portugal	United Kingdom
Estonia	Latvia	San Marino	
Finland	Liechtenstein	Singapore	

When the EV is in the category of SWT and in “Active” status, the RO/ARO will be able to add one of the following as an SOA to indicate that the EV is not currently participating at an SOA when using the “Add Site of Activity” function: Site of Activity address, Seeking Employment, or On Travel. If Seeking Employment or On Travel is selected, they will become the primary SOA. Event history will be recorded if either Seeking Employment or On Travel is added as a site of activity.

After “Exempt from Pre-placement”, Seeking Employment or On Travel is no longer the primary SOA (because a SOA address was added) they can no longer be selected as the primary SOA.

For an EV record in the category of SWT with a status of “Initial” or “Active”, the RO/ARO will not have the ability to edit an SOA entry for Seeking Employment, Exempt from Pre-placement, or On Travel.

Editing the Subject/Field Information Fields

The Category and Subject Field link will be available to the RO/ARO to update the Subject/Field code, Subject/Field Remarks, Category, Occupational Category, Student Intern Foreign Degree, and Student Intern Foreign Field of Study fields for an EV anytime the EV’s status is Initial. This includes records containing visa information.

User Manuals, Online Help, and Tutorials

SEVIS Online Help and User Manuals for program sponsor officials will be updated to reflect the changes implemented with SEVIS Release 6.15.