



# Fact Sheet

December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018

## Information for SAVE Users: How to Verify Citizens of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands<sup>1</sup>

### Background

The Compacts of Free Association (COFA) are agreements that established free association between the United States and the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), and the Republic of Palau (PAL) (collectively referred to as the Freely Associated States, or FAS). FAS citizens are not citizens or nationals of the United States. However, FAS citizens admitted to the United States under the Compacts may reside, work and study in the United States **for an unlimited length of time.**<sup>1</sup>

### Travel documentation and Admission to the United States

FAS citizens arriving at a U.S. port of entry may apply for admission as nonimmigrants. To be admitted to the United States, FAS citizens must possess a valid, unexpired passport from their country of citizenship. Under the Compacts, a **visa is not required.** Upon admission to the United States, FAS citizens receive an admission stamp in their passport from U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP). The exact stamp notation will vary, but it typically states “CFA/PAL” (Compact of Free Association/Palau), “CFA/FSM” (Compact of Free Association/Federated States of Micronesia), or “CFA/MIS” (Compact of Free Association/Republic of Marshall Islands). The admission period will indicate D/S (duration of status).<sup>2</sup>

Prior to April 30, 2013, CBP may have issued Form I-94 Arrival/Departure Record to FAS citizens following admission into the United States, which would also bear the admission stamp and notations listed above. However, since after April 30, 2013, FAS citizens are issued an electronic I-94, which can be accessed and printed by visiting <https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94/#/home>.<sup>3</sup> The printouts replace the paper form and can be used to verify immigration status through SAVE.

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<sup>1</sup> This Fact Sheet is limited to verification of FAS citizens admitted to the United States as nonimmigrants under the Compacts, which is most, but not all, FAS citizens in the United States. In some cases, FAS citizens may have a different status under U.S. immigration law, such as lawful permanent resident. Those cases should be handled under normal SAVE procedures relating to verification of that status.

<sup>2</sup> This indicates that the individual is authorized to remain in the United States as long as he or she maintains a valid status.

<sup>3</sup> I-94 records that are older than five years can be requested via a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request with CBP, rather than on the website. In addition, if your I-94 cannot be obtained from the CBP website, it may be obtained by filing Form I-102 with USCIS.

SAVE can verify immigration status using an FAS citizen’s foreign passport and I-94 Record or I-766 Employment Authorization document (EAD). Although FAS citizens are not required to get an EAD, the EAD may be necessary for issuance of a REAL ID compliant driver’s license or identification card, depending on state law or guidance. Therefore, DHS highly encourages FAS citizens to apply for an EAD soon after they enter the country.

### **SAVE Verification Process for FAS Citizens**

To verify the status of FAS citizens, SAVE user agencies should enter the applicant’s immigration document information, such as unexpired foreign passport number, Form I-94 number, or Alien/USCIS number from the I-766 EAD into SAVE.

#### **Instructions for Verifying FAS Citizens**

<b>If...</b>	<b>Then...</b>
Applicant presents an Unexpired Foreign Passport	Select the “Unexpired Foreign Passport” document type and input the required information.  NOTE: If an individual presents an unexpired foreign passport that they were issued while in the United States, and the individual has never presented it to enter the United States, do not use this selection. Instead, ask the individual for the original Form I-94 and select that document type as explained below.
Applicant presents a Form I-94 (either paper version issued by CBP or computer printout)	Select the “I-94 (Arrival/Departure Record)” document type and input the required information.
Applicant presents a Form I-94 in their Unexpired Foreign Passport	Select the “I-94 (Arrival/Departure Record) in Unexpired Foreign Passport” document type and input the required information.
Applicant presents an I-766 (EAD)	Select the “I-766 (Employment Authorization Card)” document type and input the required information.  NOTE: The expiration date of the EAD relates to the card, not to the period of time for which the FAS individual is admitted to the United States. As discussed, these individuals are permitted to work and live in the United States for an indefinite period of time.

*For more information about citizens of Palau, FSM, or RMI, please visit the Fact Sheets under “Resources” in the SAVE system. SAVE user agencies seeking additional information about verifying the status of FAS citizens may contact SAVE at [SAVE.HELP@uscis.dhs.gov](mailto:SAVE.HELP@uscis.dhs.gov) or 1-888-464-4218. For information concerning the REAL ID Act, please visit [The DHS Real ID Office](#).*