



# GMS Flash Alert

2016-125 | November 4, 2016



## United States – From November 29 Certain PRC Nationals Must Start Using EVUS

In an earlier GMS [Flash Alert](#),<sup>1</sup> we informed readers that beginning in November 2016, anyone traveling on a People's Republic of China (PRC) passport with a 10-year B1/B2, B1 or B2 visa will be required to enroll in the Electronic Visa Update System (EVUS), however, the exact date had not been determined. U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has recently specified the exact date for enrollment using EVUS is to be November 29, 2016.<sup>2</sup>

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### WHY THIS MATTERS

November 29 is rapidly approaching and affected visa holders from the PRC will have to be ready to comply with the new procedures.

- Applicants who are holding valid 10-year B1/B2, B1, or B2 visas issued before November 29, 2016, will have to enroll in EVUS to use their visas any time after the launch of the program.
- Applicants who receive 10-year B1/B2, B1, or B2 visas from November 29, 2016 onwards, will have to enroll before their initial trip to the United States.

The visa holders will then have to update their information before traveling to the U.S. again.

Enrollment for all applicants will remain valid for two years or until the traveler's visa or passport expire, whichever comes first. The EVUS enrollment fee will be USD 8 or approximately RMB 53, once implemented.

This development will add some administrative burden – as well as a small cost – on these individuals given the requirement to enroll in the system and the obligation to periodically update their personal details in the system.

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## Background: 10-Year Visas and Purpose of EVUS

As we reported in GMS [Flash Alert 2016-100](#), the U.S. and PRC governments, in November 2014, entered into an arrangement on a reciprocal basis to issue visitor visas with 10-year validity. The arrangement recognized that travelers would be required to periodically complete an online form updating their biographical information.

In this vein, EVUS was developed. EVUS is the online system that must be used by all PRC nationals holding a 10-year B1/B2, B1, or B2 (visitor) visa to allow the traveler to provide his or her most current information – including name, passport number, address, and employment – to immigration officials *before* traveling to the United States. Completing this form will become mandatory starting November 29, 2016.

Such visa holders will periodically have to go online through EVUS and update their biographic information.

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### KPMG NOTE

Travelers who are citizens of Taiwan (Republic of China), Hong Kong, and Macau traveling on a PRC passport with a 10-year B1/B2, B1, or B2 visa will be required to enroll in EVUS. Travelers using other travel documents, including Hong Kong SAR, Macau SAR, and Taiwan passports, may continue to travel to the U.S. as they currently do and follow existing procedures.

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### FOOTNOTES:

1 See GMS [Flash Alert 2016-100](#) (September 9, 2016).

2 For further information see the announcements on U.S. Customs & Border Protection website [in English](#) or [in Mandarin Chinese](#).

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## Contact us

For additional information or assistance, please contact your local GMS or People Services professional\* or the following professional with the KPMG International member firm in Canada:

### Charlene Quincey

U.S. Immigration Practice Leader  
KPMG Law LLP – Tax + Immigration,  
Canada  
Tel. +1-416-943-0288 x266  
[cquincey@kpmglaw.ca](mailto:cquincey@kpmglaw.ca)

*\* Please note that KPMG LLP (U.S.) does not provide any immigration services. However, KPMG LLP Law in Canada can assist clients with U.S. immigration matters.*

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