

**Information Sheet**  
**Social Security Administration and**  
**Citizens of the Freely Associated States of**  
**the Republic of Palau,**  
**the Federated States of Micronesia and**  
**the Republic of the Marshall Islands**

**Policy:**

Individuals who are citizens of a Compact of Free Association (CFA) countries {currently the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), the Republic of the Marshall Islands (MIS), and the Republic of Palau (PAL)} may enter, reside, and work in the U.S. without obtaining immigrant or non-immigrant visas.

For the purposes of the Social Security Administration (SSA) obtaining a Social Security Number and Card, a citizen of a Compact of Free Association country is treated as an individual lawfully admitted for permanent residence.

He/she is eligible to apply for an unrestricted Social Security Number (SSN) and Card, which should be processed without any legend in accordance with instructions contained in **RM 00203.420** (Evidence of Alien Status for an SSN Card for a Compact of Free Association Citizens Admitted as a Permanent Nonimmigrant).

**Procedure for those residing inside U. S. territory:**

A citizen of a CFA country in the U.S. may apply for a Social Security Number and Card. The SSA reference for processing the application is contained in **RM 00203.001C.1** (The citizenship entry on the SS-5/MES screen should be “legal alien allowed to work” and the PRA entry should be “Y”).

**Procedure for those residing outside U.S. Territory:**

A citizen of a CFA country may apply for a Social Security Number while still residing outside the U.S. He/she must provide a valid nonwork reason for a Social Security Number (**RM 00203.510**). If the nonwork need is valid, the application may be processed for a nonwork card (with a legend “NO VALID FOR EMPLOYMENT”). Further instructions are contained in RM 00203.001 C.2 (The citizenship entry on the SS-5/MES screen should be “other,” the PRA entry should be “N,” and the NWR entry should be “Y.”)

This information is accurate as of October 2008. For the most current SSN evidentiary requirements for CFAs please refer to SSA's Program Rules accessible through SSA's website ([www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov)).

## **Types of Permanent Nonimmigrant Documents**

The following documents should be acceptable evidence of permanent nonimmigrant status for the purposes of obtaining an SSN:

### **I-94 Annotated CFA/MIS, CFA/FSM, or CFA/PAL**

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) issues I-94 cards at Ports of Entry to the U.S. to citizens of Compact of Free Association countries. The I-94 card should be annotated “CFA/MIS” for a citizen of the Marshall Islands, “CFA/FSM” for a citizen of the Federated States of Micronesia, or “CFA/PAL” for a citizen of Palau. The I-94 will bear an entry date and generally no expiration date should be shown.

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### **TTPI Passport/Certificate of Citizenship**

Some citizens of Compact of Free Association countries entered the U.S. Before DHS began issuing I-94's for permanent nonimmigrants. A Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (TTPI) passport or a TTPI Certificate of Citizenship along with an allegation that the individual is a citizen of a Compact of Free Association country should be acceptable evidence.

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### **Travel Document/Passport**

A passport or travel document issued by the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia or the Republic of Palau should be acceptable evidence.

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