

American Bankers Association.

1120 Connecticut Ave NW
Washington, DC 20036



AC 003059

March 9th, 2022.

Washington D.C.

From the Embassy of Venezuela to the United States of America we ask for your collaboration in the acceptance of Consular Identifications and seemingly expired Venezuelan passports as proof of age and identity for our citizens residing in the United States to have access to the broad range of banking and financial services offered by the financial institutions you support, as well as through any existing programs and policies you sponsor.

As you may know, due to the current political and institutional crisis in our country, Venezuelans overseas are unable to renew their passports thus being deprived of their right to an identity. To partially alleviate this problem, on May 21st of 2019 Acting Venezuelan President Juan Guaido enacted a Decree (Presidential Decree 006) which automatically extends all Venezuelan passports for five (5) additional years from the expiration date currently displayed on them.

On June 7th of 2019, the Office of the Spokesperson of the State Department informed that the United States recognizes this passport extension for visa issuance and consular purposes. Customs and Border Protection, as part of the Department of Homeland Security, also recognizes this Decree to grant admission into the United States. Annexed at the end of this communication you can find two press releases supporting this information, marked as Annex A and B.

We are grateful to the United States for its support in this matter. This decision has allowed thousands of Venezuelans to initiate or continue their lives in this country as law abiding immigrants. This brings us to the issue for which we require your assistance. Many Venezuelans need to have access to banking and financial services to fulfill the simplest tasks any person needs to accomplish in their daily lives. However, we understand it is practically unrealistic for all branches and employees in every bank across the country to be aware of the automatic passport extension granted through our laws and the support given by the Federal Government. We normally encourage our citizens to show supporting documents from the like of the ones annexed to this communication, as proof of their passport validity, but most of the time this is not enough to solve the issue.

Your cooperation in promoting the acceptance of our Consular Issued Identification would allow our citizens to have greater access to into the network of banks you support and ease their integration into the economy. This opportunity would benefit not only those trying to open bank accounts across the country, but also many existing customers who already have limitations under the same passport identification issues described above. We hope that through your involvement and advocacy, more regional and community banks will take the appropriate measures to accept and ensure all Venezuelan passports extended under our laws are accepted as proof of identity, as well as forward this information to all their branches.

Finally, we take the opportunity to provide more information about the Consular Identification mentioned above, issued by this diplomatic mission for those Venezuelans whose passports are not valid even after the automatic extension or whose passports have been, retained by immigration authorities, lost, or stolen. To these people we issue "*Nationality Certificates*" in a digital format, which are valid for identification purposes as long as they are signed, stamped, and presented in the format you can verify with our consular staff, as referenced at the end of this letter. All of them also have a QR code for verification purposes.

We are at your disposal for any further inquiry on this or any other subject. Please don't hesitate to contact us at serviciosconsulares@us.embajadavenezuela.org or my personal email bfincheltub@us.embajadavenezuela.org

Best regards,

The image shows a handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to be "B. Fincheltub", written over a circular official seal. The seal features the coat of arms of Venezuela and the text "REPÚBLICA BOLIVARIANA DE VENEZUELA" and "EMBAJADA EN LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS DE AMÉRICA".

Brian Fincheltub
Director of Consular Affairs
Embassy of Venezuela to the United States of America

ANNEX A

8/27/2020

The United States Supports Extension of Validity for Venezuelan Passports - United States Department of State

Travelers

★ ★ ★

The United States Supports Extension of Validity for Venezuelan Passports

MEDIA NOTE

OFFICE OF THE SPOKESPERSON

JUNE 7, 2019

Share 

Today, the National Assembly published a decree signed by Interim President Juan Guaido on May 21, to extend the validity of Venezuelan passports for an additional five years past their printed date of expiration. The United States recognizes this extension of passport validity for visa issuance and other consular purposes. Customs and Border Protection will likewise recognize the passports covered by this decree.

Venezuelan passport holders who have been issued a passport extension will have the validity period extended by five years from the expiration date in their passport and valid for admission to the United States, as long as the traveler is otherwise admissible. Venezuelans in the United States holding passports extended by the decree may use those passports, which will still be considered valid in accordance with the decree, for any appropriate consular purpose. Nothing in this action alters the requirements for obtaining a U.S. visa or for admission to the United States.

<https://www.state.gov/the-united-states-supports-extension-of-validity-for-venezuelan-passports/>

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Source: <https://www.state.gov/the-united-states-supports-extension-of-validity-for-venezuelan-passports/>



ANNEX B

8/27/2020

Venezuela: Extension of Passport Validity

URL NAME

Article-1411

LANGUAGE

English

CONTENT

On June 7, 2019, an extended decree by the Venezuelan National Assembly extended the validity of previously issued Venezuelan passports.

Venezuelan passport holders will have the validity period of five years from the expiration date of their passport and have valid admission to the United States, as long as the traveler has a valid visa.

This does not alter the requirements to obtain a U.S. visa or admission to the United States. The extension of passports are not valid for entering or leaving Venezuela. CBP will likewise recognize the passports covered by this decree as having been extended and valid for admission to the United States.

As long as the traveler is otherwise admissible

- Venezuelan passport holders who have been issued a passport extension, the validity of their passport shall be determined by adding five years of validity to the expiration date granted by the extension.
- Venezuelans who are not in possession of a passport, or whose passport has not be rendered valid by the decree, may be able to travel with a visa attached to a Form DS-232.

Venezuelans who wish to travel to another country should contact the embassy of that country to learn about its specific travel document requirements.

Don't see what you're looking for?

[ASK US A QUESTION](#)

(<https://help.cbp.gov/s/questions>)

Source: <https://help.cbp.gov/s/article/Article-1411?>

ANNEX C



EMBASSY OF THE BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA | UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONALITY CERTIFICATE

CERTIFICADO DE NACIONALIDAD

CDN-202103944

Nº: 3



<https://doc.embajadavenezuela.org/documento/c6ffeea3c3b303acbbfd81d9.pdf>

FAMILY NAME / APELLIDO: 001
GIVEN NAME / NOMBRE: JESUS
CITIZENSHIP / CIUDADANÍA: Venezuelan
DATE OF BIRTH / FECHA DE NACIMIENTO: 02/MAR/2021
PLACE OF BIRTH / LUGAR DE NACIMIENTO: Maracaibo
CIVIL STATUS / ESTADO CIVIL: Single
SEX / SEXO: Male
NATIONAL ID NUMBER / CÉDULA DE IDENTIDAD: 2222
PASSPORT NUMBER / NÚMERO DE PASAPORTE: 2222
DIRECTED ENTITY / ENTIDAD DIRIGIDA: XXXX

FOTO

This certificate confirms that the person above identified is a National of Venezuela, it is valid only for a single use, to be presented to: XXXX in the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Este certificado confirma que la persona antes identificada es un Nacional de Venezuela, es válido por un uso único, para ser presentado ante: XXXX en los ESTADOS UNIDOS DE AMÉRICA.

Issued at/ Emitido en: Washington D.C.	Date of issue/ Fecha de emisión: 03/26/2021	Expires on/ Vence en: 03/11/2021
 Signature of Issuing Officer / Firma del Funcionario Emisor		 Brian Fincheltub Title/título DIRECTOR OF CONSULAR AFFAIRS

Para verificar la autenticidad de este documento escanee el código QR ubicado en la esquina superior derecha o contacte a serviciosconsulares@us.embajadavenezuela.org con el nombre completo, fecha de nacimiento y número de pasaporte de la persona anteriormente identificada. || To verify the authenticity of this document scan the QR code located in the upper right corner or contact serviciosconsulares@us.embajadavenezuela.org with the full name, D.O.B and passport number of the subject above.

Washington D.C.

