

8 USC 1181: Admission of immigrants into the United States

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From Title 8-ALIENS AND NATIONALITY

CHAPTER 12-IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY

SUBCHAPTER II-IMMIGRATION

Part II-Admission Qualifications for Aliens; Travel Control of Citizens and Aliens

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§1181. Admission of immigrants into the United States

(a) Documents required; admission under quotas before June 30, 1968

Except as provided in subsection (b) and subsection (c) no immigrant shall be admitted into the United States unless at the time of application for admission he (1) has a valid unexpired immigrant visa or was born subsequent to the issuance of such visa of the accompanying parent, and (2) presents a valid unexpired passport or other suitable travel document, or document of identity and nationality, if such document is required under the regulations issued by the Attorney General. With respect to immigrants to be admitted under quotas of quota areas prior to June 30, 1968, no immigrant visa shall be deemed valid unless the immigrant is properly chargeable to the quota area under the quota of which the visa is issued.

(b) Readmission without required documents; Attorney General's discretion

Notwithstanding the provisions of [section 1182\(a\)\(7\)\(A\) of this title](#) in such cases or in such classes of cases and under such conditions as may be by regulations prescribed, returning resident immigrants, defined in [section 1101\(a\)\(27\)\(A\) of this title](#), who are otherwise admissible may be readmitted to the United States by the Attorney General in his discretion without being required to obtain a passport, immigrant visa, reentry permit or other documentation.

(c) Nonapplicability to aliens admitted as refugees

The provisions of subsection (a) shall not apply to an alien whom the Attorney General admits to the United States under [section 1157 of this title](#).

(June 27, 1952, ch. 477, title II, ch. 2, §211, 66 Stat. 181 ; Pub. L. 89–236, §9, Oct. 3, 1965, 79 Stat. 917 ; Pub. L. 94–571, §7(c), Oct. 20, 1976, 90 Stat. 2706 ; Pub. L. 96–212, title II, §202, Mar. 17, 1980, 94 Stat. 106 ; Pub. L. 101–649, title VI, §603(a)(7), Nov. 29, 1990, 104 Stat. 5083 .)