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TN 12 (10-23)

RM 10214.100 Overview of the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) Program

CITATIONS: [8 U.S.C. 1642](#)

The Social Security Administration (SSA) is required to verify all Department of Homeland Security (DHS) evidence of lawful alien status and certain evidence of United States (U.S.) citizenship for enumeration purposes. SSA uses the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) program to verify all DHS evidence submitted to support an SSN application. This section provides a general description of SAVE and verification requirements through the Social Security Number Application Process (SSNAP).

For more information on SAVE interactions within SSNAP, see the [SSNAP User Guide](#).

A. SAVE verification process

The SAVE program is an information-sharing initiative designed to assist benefit-granting agencies in verifying an immigration document and determining an applicant's lawful alien status or certain instances of U.S. citizenship. The SAVE verification process includes the initial verification (IV), additional verification (AV), and (Third Level verification request).

1. Initial verification (IV)

The IV is the first step in the SAVE verification process. SSA enters the alien registration number, Form I-94 (Arrival/Departure Record) admission number, or unexpired foreign passport number along with other identifying information from the applicant's immigration document. SAVE provides an immediate electronic response either confirming the applicant's lawful alien status or U.S. citizenship and document or requiring the user to submit a SAVE additional verification request.

See details:

[RM 10214.110](#) Requesting Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) Initial Verification (IV) of Immigration Documents

2. Additional verification (AV)

The AV is an electronic second request submitted to a SAVE status verifier when SSA cannot verify the applicant's immigration document, lawful alien status, or U.S. citizenship status during the IV process. The status verifier checks additional DHS databases and responds electronically to the request.

See details:

[RM 10214.150](#) Requesting Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) Additional Verification (AV) of Immigration Documents

3. Third Level verification request

The Third Level verification is a more extensive verification request for a SAVE status verifier to validate an applicant's immigration document and lawful alien status or U.S. citizenship status through a manual search of all applicable automated and paper DHS files.

For the Third Level verification request, SSA scans and uploads the Third Level verification request to DHS. DHS returns the results of the extensive search of all applicable automated and paper DHS files response to SSA electronically.

See details:

[RM 10214.170](#) Requesting Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) Verification of Immigration Documents Using Third Level (Document Verification Request) (Scan and Upload feature)

B. Related terminology

1. Admission or departure number (I-94 number or I-94#)

The I-94 number is the 11-digit pre-printed number shown as the "departure number" or "admission number" on Form I-94. For additional information on I-94 numbers shown on all I-94 versions, see [RM 10211.135C](#).

NOTE: In some cases, the pre-printed admission number may have:

- an "X" instead of a numeric. In this scenario, enter a "0" instead of the "X"; and
- only 10 digits. In this scenario, enter a lead "0" as the first digit.

2. Alien registration number (A number or A#)

The alien registration number is the "8" or "9" digit number following "A" shown on the:

- back of I-94s issued to refugees, asylees, and certain parolees;
- "green card" or Form I-551 (Permanent Resident Card, formerly the Alien Registration Receipt Card);
- Form I-766 (Employment Authorization Document (EAD)); and

- certain other immigration documents and notices

For newly admitted immigrants, the A# is shown on the machine-readable immigrant visa (MRIV) affixed to the foreign passport

C. SAVE verification via SSNAP

SSNAP automatically submits the SAVE IV request. If the IV response does not confirm the document and lawful alien status or U.S. citizenship, SSNAP can either submit a new SAVE IV in limited situations (see [RM 10213.095](#), Step 4) or submit an electronic second request, the SAVE AV request. If the AV response does not confirm the status or document, SSNAP can request a Third Level verification request utilizing the Scan and Upload feature.

In situations where the office knows the SAVE IV verification processes cannot confirm the status or document (i.e., the document appears fraudulent), SSNAP can skip the AV request and instead immediately request a Third Level verification via Scan and Upload. Utilizing the Scan and Upload process automatically selects the correct SAVE Verification Office (SVO) receives the Third Level verification request.

D. SAVE availability

SAVE is available during normal SSA hours of operations as follows:

- Monday through Friday from 5:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST);
- Saturdays from 5:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. EST;
- Sundays from 8:00 a.m. to 5:59 p.m. EST; and
- Federal holidays: Same availability hours as Monday through Sunday for the day on which the holiday occurs.

E. SAVE transaction charges

The following chart reflects the cost to SSA that DHS charges for each IV and AV request, regardless of whether you submit the request through SSNAP or I-MAIN.

Fiscal Year (FY)	Federal Agency Charge Per Verification
FY 2024	\$1.50
FY 2025	\$2.25
FY 2026	\$3.10
FY 2027	\$3.10
FY 2028	\$3.10

Note: Be sure to input the information as shown on the immigration document.

IMPORTANT: Do not submit unnecessary verification requests.

DHS does not charge SSA for Third Level verification requests submitted because **neither** the IV **nor** AV requests resulted in a successful verification.

DHS does not charge SSA for viewing an existing SAVE record in IMAIN web-based SAVE in order to check the status of the request.

For the SSN application rules, see the Rules for Verifying the Department of Homeland Security Documents in [RM 10213.090](#) on:

- the effect multiple requests have on SSNAP, and
- how to check the status of a pending request.

Section History

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Action Item Explanation

Effective Date Title

04/04/2013	Overview of the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) Program
02/06/2012	Overview of the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) Program
01/25/2012	Overview of the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) Program
12/31/2010	Overview of the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) Program
10/28/2010	Overview of the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) Program
07/14/2010	Overview of the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) Program

Prior Versions of Section

Effective Date

Title

10/02/2023 - 10/01/2023	Overview of the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) Program
08/01/2014 - 10/01/2023	Overview of the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) Program
08/01/2014 - 07/12/2018	Overview of the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) Program
04/02/2013 - 07/31/2014	Overview of the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) Program
02/03/2012 - 04/01/2013	Overview of the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) Program
01/25/2012 - 02/02/2012	Overview of the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) Program
05/23/2011 - 01/24/2012	Overview of the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) Program
12/30/2010 - 05/22/2011	Overview of the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) Program
12/09/2010 - 12/29/2010	Overview of the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) Program
10/29/2010 - 12/08/2010	Overview of the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) Program
10/22/2010 - 10/28/2010	Overview of the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) Program

07/13/2010 - 10/21/2010 [Overview of the Department of Homeland Security's \(DHS\) Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements \(SAVE\) Program](#)

05/20/2010 - 07/12/2010 [Overview of the Department of Homeland Security's \(DHS\) Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements \(SAVE\) Program](#)

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