

**Supporting Statement  
Advance Travel Authorization (ATA)  
1651-0143**

**A. Justification**

- 1. Explain the circumstances that make the collection of information necessary. Identify any legal or administrative requirements that necessitate the collection. Attach a copy of the appropriate section of each statute and regulation mandating or authorizing the collection of information.**

The newly developed CBP Advance Travel Authorization (ATA) allows certain noncitizens from Venezuela and their qualifying immediate family members<sup>1</sup> to submit information within the CBP One™ application as part of the process to request an advance authorization to travel to the United States to seek a discretionary grant of parole. CBP is seeking to expand this collection to also include certain noncitizens from Nicaragua, Cuba, and Haiti and their qualifying immediate family members and to remove the previously approved numerical cap for noncitizens from Venezuela. ATA requires the collection of a facial photograph via CBP One™ from those eligible noncitizens who voluntarily elect to participate in the process. Participation is limited to those individuals who meet certain DHS established criteria, including possession of a valid, unexpired passport, as well as having an approved U.S.-based supporter. Pending Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval, the expansion of this functionality will be available as early as late December, 2022.

**Background:**

The United States is currently encountering a large number of undocumented noncitizens at the Southwest Border (SWB) of the United States where, despite surging resources and personnel, CBP is facing unprecedented challenges processing such individuals in a timely manner.

CBP's Office of Field Operations (OFO) developed the ATA capability, a new functionality in CBP One™, which collects biographic information and a facial photograph from a noncitizen who is submitting information to request an advance authorization to travel to the United States to seek a discretionary grant of parole.

**Advance Travel Authorization (ATA):**

The facial photograph collected from the noncitizens will be linked to biographic information provided by the individual to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). CBP will conduct vetting of noncitizens using the biographic information provided to CBP by USCIS and the facial photograph collected by CBP via CBP One™. This information collection will facilitate the vetting of noncitizens seeking to obtain advance authorization to travel and give air carriers that participate in CBP's document

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<sup>1</sup> Immediate family members include spouse and unmarried children under the age of 21. Eligible family members must travel with the principal noncitizen to be processed under an ATA program upon arrival in the United States. Unaccompanied children are not eligible for this process.

validation program the ability to validate an approved travel authorization, facilitating generation of a noncitizen's boarding pass without having to use other manual validation processes.

CBP One™ allows the user to capture their image and confirm submission after viewing the captured image. If the user is not satisfied with the image captured, the user can retake the image. A user can retake the image up to three times. If after three attempts CBP One™ cannot successfully capture the user's image, CBP One™ will provide the user an error message notifying them that their submission was unable to be completed and that they can access the capability and try again. If the user continues to experience technical difficulties, the CBP One™ application provides a help desk email to provide assistance. In the event that the user is not authorized to travel under this process, they may still seek entry through another process, including by filing a request for consideration of parole with USCIS or applying with the Department of State (DOS) to obtain a visa.

Once submitted, CBP will vet available biographic information and the facial photograph against selected security and law enforcement databases at DHS and other federal agencies, for national security, border security, public health, and safety. DHS will limit use and sharing of the photograph to what is strictly necessary to perform this vetting. Any potential travel authorization denials resulting from facial photograph matches against these databases or mismatches to confirm identity will be verified by a CBP officer before the travel authorization is denied. DHS will retain the facial photograph for the duration of the travel authorization validity but no more than 180 days and ensure that it is deleted from all DHS and other agency databases after that time unless the photograph matches against national security or law enforcement databases, as verified by CBP personnel. CBP conducts this vetting to determine whether the individual poses a security risk to the United States, and to determine whether the individual is eligible to receive advance authorization to travel to the United States to seek a discretionary grant of parole at the port of entry (POE). There is no numerical cap on the number of noncitizens from these four countries who may apply.

If the travel authorization is denied, the individual will not be authorized to travel to the United States to seek parole under this process. If approved, the approval establishes that the individual has obtained advance authorization to travel to the United States to seek parole, consistent with 8 C.F.R. 212.5(f), but does not guarantee boarding or a specific processing disposition at a POE. Upon arrival to a United States POE, the traveler will be subject to inspection by a CBP officer, who will make a case-by-case processing disposition determination.

This collection of information is authorized by 8 U.S.C. 1182(d)(5), 8 C.F.R. 212.5(f). The Department has also publicly announced the policy and accompanying collection on its website, and will be promptly issuing a *Federal Register* notice for each of the four named countries.

CBP One™ collects the following information from the individual submitting a request for an advance authorization to travel to the United States to seek parole:

1. Facial Photograph
2. Photo obtained from the passport or Chip on ePassport, where available
3. Alien Registration Number

4. First and Last Name
5. Date of Birth
6. Passport Number

Data will be collected on the efficacy of this process in achieving the desired outcomes, to include reduction in SWB encounters, identifying derogatory information before individuals travel, increased arrivals to final destination and grants of parole, and access to employment authorization, as well as assessment of the usability of the CBP One™ application and the efficacy of automated facial matching, including by demographic group, in order to assess whether this emergency measure has been effective.

2. **Indicate how, by whom, and for what purpose the information is to be used. Except for a new collection, indicate the actual use the agency has made of the information received from the current collection.**

This information is used by CBP to vet against selected security and law enforcement databases available to DHS and other federal agencies, for national security, border security, public health and safety. CBP conducts this vetting to determine whether the individual poses a security risk to the United States, and to determine whether the individual is eligible to receive advance authorization to travel to the United States to seek parole. DHS will limit use and sharing of the photograph to what is strictly necessary to perform this vetting. Any potential travel authorization denials resulting from facial photograph matches against these databases or mismatches to confirm identity will be verified by a CBP officer before the travel authorization is denied. DHS will retain the facial photograph for the duration of the travel authorization validity but no more than 180 days and ensure that it is deleted from all DHS and other agency databases after that time unless the photograph matches against national security or law enforcement databases, as verified by CBP personnel.

3. **Describe whether, and to what extent, the collection of information involves the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g. permitting electronic submission of responses, and the basis for the decision for adopting this means of collection. Also describe any consideration of using information technology to reduce burden.**

The information is submitted to CBP via the CBP One™ mobile application, which the individual can access to provide basic biographic information. This biographic information is provided solely to verify that the individual accessing the specific functionality within CBP One™ has a USCIS-approved U.S.-based supporter, has verified their biographic information, and has attested to DHS required attestations related to process eligibility criteria.

4. **Describe efforts to identify duplication. Show specifically why any similar information already available cannot be used or modified for use for the purposes described in Item 2 above.**

This information is not duplicated in any other place or any other form.

- 5. If the collection of information impacts small businesses or other small entities describe any methods used to minimize burden.**

This information collection does not have an impact on small businesses or other small entities.

- 6. Describe consequences to Federal program or policy activities if the collection is not conducted or is conducted less frequently.**

Failure to collect this information would prevent CBP from having access to information needed to conduct vetting to ascertain security and safety risks posed by individuals requesting advance authorization to travel to the United States to seek parole.

- 7. Explain any special circumstances.**

This information is collected in a manner consistent with the guidelines of 5 CFR 1320.5(d) (2).

- 8. If applicable, provide a copy and identify the date and page number of publication in the Federal Register of the agency's notice, required by 5 CFR 1320.8(d), soliciting comments on the information collection prior to submission to OMB. Summarize public comments received in response to that notice and describe actions taken by the agency in response to these comments. Specifically address comments received on cost and hour burden.**

Public comments will be solicited, and this information collection request will go through a normal Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) approval process, including a response to all comments received from the public, no later than six months after the approval of this emergency request.

- 9. Explain any decision to provide any payment or gift to respondents, other than remuneration of contractors or grantees.**

There is no offer of a monetary or material value for this information collection.

- 10. Describe any assurance of confidentiality provided to respondents and the basis for the assurance in statute, regulation, or agency policy.**

CBP published the DHS/CBP/PIA-073 Advance Travel Authorization (ATA) to document the general workflow of ATA and the information collected, stored, and used at each step. In addition to the standalone PIA, CBP also concurrently published an appendix update to the DHS/CBP/PIA-068 CBP One Mobile Application. The System of Record Notice (SORN) that permits this information collection is the ATS SORN (DHS/CBP-006 Automated Targeting System, May 22, 2012, 77 FR 30297), which permits collection of information from persons, including operators, crew, and passengers, who seek to, or do in fact, enter, exit, or transit through the United States or through other locations where CBP maintains an

enforcement or operational presence by land, air, or sea. Information submitted by noncitizens seeking advance authorization to travel to the United States to seek parole is broadly covered by the ATS SORN. CBP uses the advance information to compare it against law enforcement and intelligence databases to identify individuals and cargo requiring additional scrutiny, which aligns to the border security mission of DHS. DHS will limit use and sharing of the photograph to what is strictly necessary to perform this vetting. Any potential travel authorization denials resulting from facial photograph matches against these databases or mismatches to confirm identity will be verified by a CBP officer before the travel authorization is denied. DHS will retain the facial photograph for the duration of the travel authorization validity but no more than 180 days and ensure that it is deleted from all DHS and other agency databases after that time unless the photograph matches against national security or law enforcement databases, as verified by CBP personnel.

- 11. Provide additional justification for any questions of a sensitive nature, such as sexual behavior and attitudes, religious beliefs, and other matters that are commonly considered private. This justification should include the reasons why the agency considers the questions necessary, the specific uses to be made of the information, the explanation to be given to persons from whom the information is requested, and any steps to be taken to obtain their consent.**

There are no questions of a sensitive nature.

- 12. Provide estimates of the hour burden of the collection of information.**

<b>INFORMATION COLLECTION</b>	<b>TOTAL ANNUAL BURDEN HOURS</b>	<b>NO. OF RESPONDENTS</b>	<b>NO. OF RESPONSES PER RESPONDENT</b>	<b>TOTAL RESPONSES</b>	<b>TIME PER RESPONSE</b>
Venezuela	17,517	104,894	1	104,894	10 minutes (0.167 hours)
Nicaragua	15,287	91,539	1	91,539	10 minutes (0.167 hours)
Cuba	20,615	123,442	1	123,442	10 minutes (0.167 hours)
Haiti	5,031	30,125	1	30,125	10 minutes (0.167 hours)
<b>Total ATA Process</b>	58,450	350,000	1	350,000	10 minutes (0.167 hours)

**Public Cost**

The table above provide an estimate of the total annual number of respondents CBP anticipates, broken down by country. This estimate is based on unique CBP encounters and apprehensions of inadmissible nationals of Venezuela, Nicaragua, Cuba, and Haiti in Fiscal Year 2022, resource limitations in processing supporter requests, and the Department’s experience administering the Venezuela process, including expected effect on migration flows. It may represent an over-estimate depending on eligibility for consideration and actual interest in each parole process. This breakdown does not suggest a limit or numerical cap for each country; rather, it represents CBP’s best guess as to the approximate annual number of responses and how they may be distributed. As of December 2022, the Secretary has directed that the number of travel authorizations granted across all four processes may not exceed 30,000 each month. That direction is consistent with the estimates presented here.

The estimated cost to the respondents is \$2,752,995. This is based on the estimated burden hours (58,450) multiplied by the average hourly wage rate for all-purpose air travelers (\$47.10). CBP used the U.S. Department of Transportation’s (DOT) recommended hourly value of travel time savings for intercity, all-purpose travel by air and high-speed rail, which is provided in 2015 U.S. dollars. CBP assumes an annual growth rate of 0 percent; the 2015 U.S. dollar value is equal to the 2022 U.S. dollar value.<sup>2</sup>

**13. Provide an estimate of the total annual cost burden to respondents or record keepers resulting from the collection of information.**

There are no record keeping, capital, start-up or maintenance costs associated with this information collection.

**14. Provide estimates of annualized cost to the Federal Government. Also provide a description of the method used to estimate cost, which should include quantification of hours, operational expenses (such as equipment overhead, printing, and support staff), and any other expense that would not have been incurred without this collection of information.**

It is estimated that 70% of submissions received will be approved automatically by the system, and 30% of the submissions will be reviewed manually by a CBP Officer.

The estimated annual cost to the Federal Government associated with the review of these submissions is \$2,353,428. This is based on the number of responses that must be reviewed manually (105,000) multiplied by the time burden to review and process each response (0.33 hours) = 34,650 hours multiplied by the average hourly loaded rate for a CBP Officer (\$67.92)<sup>3</sup> = \$2,353,428.

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<sup>2</sup> Source: U.S. Department of Transportation, Office of Transportation Policy. *The Value of Travel Time Savings: Departmental Guidance for Conducting Economic Evaluations Revision 2 (2016 Update)*, “Table 4 (Revision 2 - 2016 Update): Recommended Hourly Values of Travel Time Savings for Intercity, All-Purpose Travel by Air and High-Speed Rail.” September 27, 2016. Available at <https://www.transportation.gov/sites/dot.gov/files/docs/2016%20Revised%20Value%20of%20Travel%20Time%20Guidance.pdf>. Accessed May 25, 2022.

<sup>3</sup> CBP bases this wage on the FY 2022 salary and benefits of the national average of CBP Officer Positions, which is equal to a GS-11, Step 10. Source: Email correspondence with CBP’s Office of Finance on June 27, 2022.

**15. Explain the reasons for any program changes or adjustments reported in Items 12 or 13.**

There is an increase to the previously reported burden for this information collection due to an increase in respondents and submissions being received; CBP is seeking to expand this collection to remove the previous numerical cap for noncitizens from Venezuela and also include certain noncitizens from Nicaragua, Cuba, Haiti, and their qualifying immediate family members.

**16. For collection of information whose results will be published, outline plans for tabulation, and publication.**

This information collection will not be published for statistical purposes.

**17. If seeking approval to not display the expiration date, explain the reasons that displaying the expiration date would be inappropriate.**

CBP will display the expiration date for OMB approval of this information collection.

**18. “Certification for Paperwork Reduction Act Submissions.”**

CBP does not request an exception to the certification of this information collection.

**19. Collection of Information Employing Statistical Methods**

No statistical methods were employed.