Executive Action Summary: 

Improving Enhanced Vetting Capabilities and Processes for Detecting Attempted Entry

On January 31, 2020, President Trump issued a Proclamation on Improving Enhanced Vetting Capabilities and Processes for Detecting Attempted Entry (#9983). This proclamation references previous proclamations (#9645 from September 2017 and #9723 from April 2018), which remain in effect and impose other travel restrictions on certain nationals of Iran, Libya, North Korea, Somalia, Syria, Venezuela, and Yemen. A summary only of the new implications follows.

Suspension of entry to the US as immigrants, for certain foreign nationals

- **Immigrant Visas**: The order specifies impacted countries as: Burma/Myanmar, Eritrea, Kyrgyzstan, and Nigeria.
- **Diversity Visa program only**: The order specifies impacted countries as: Sudan and Tanzania.
- Travel remains viable under all nonimmigrant visa categories (F-1, J-1, H-1B, etc.), subject to visa validity.
- Restrictions do NOT apply to foreign nationals of these countries who are:
  - Lawful permanent residents of the United States
  - Dual nationals who travel with a passport issued by a country that is not subject to current restrictions
  - Holders of a diplomatic visa, those granted asylum, or those already admitted to the US as a refugee
- Exceptions may be granted to applicants for a Special Immigrant Visa on the basis of SI or SQ classifications, who have applied for eligibility on the basis of having provided assistance to the United States Government.

Implementation & Ongoing Revisions

- Specified provisions take effect on Friday, February 21, 2020.
- Restrictions will apply to nationals of designated countries who are outside the US and do not have a valid visa on the date the proclamation takes effect.
- Moving forward, the Departments of Homeland Security and State will annually evaluate the terms of this and other referenced proclamations and submit a report on October 1st, to determine whether these provisions should remain in place for the countries identified (inclusive of both Proclamation 9645 and Proclamation 9983).
- Every 2 years, the relevant government agencies will perform an assessment of information gathering and sharing by all foreign governments, for determination of appropriate travel suspensions or limitations. At any time, however, recommendations may be made and implemented to protect national interests of the United States.

The ISO will continue to monitor any legal developments or practical guidance regarding how this policy is implemented. Please note: Given the intricate nature of this proclamation in relation to previous orders and executive action since 2017, there are discrete populations where additional provisions or exclusions/waivers may apply. Individuals are encouraged to contact an immigration attorney for guidance specific to their circumstances.