



update to critical restrictions on french nationals (e and l visas)

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Today, the U.S. Department of State (DOS) changed the reciprocity schedule for France to reflect decreased E-1, E-2, and L-1 visa validity periods. Specifically, **effective November 12, 2019, E-1 and E-2 visas are now limited to a validity of only 25 months per visa issuance.** Similarly, **L-1 visas are now limited to a validity of only 17 months per visa issuance.** Until this change, E and L visas have had validity for 60 months.

In general, different types of U.S. nonimmigrant visas have different allowable validity periods depending on the nationality of the applicant, because the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) requires the DOS to set country-specific visa policies based on reciprocity. The validity periods, number of entries, and visa fees for different types of visas are based on each country's treatment of similar classes of U.S. visitors to its territory, as well as national security, immigration, and other considerations. Since August 2019, there have been announcements by the U.S. Embassy in France regarding decreased E visa validity periods for French nationals. According to the U.S. Embassy in France's website at that time, the reduction in validity time on E visas was implemented to correspond with the "treatment afforded to U.S. citizens by the Government of France". However, until today, the DOS has not changed the reciprocity schedule to reflect the changes...

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