



Can I travel while my Petition is Pending?

Whether or not you may travel abroad while your petition is pending depends on a variety of factors:

1. Traveling while a *change of status* petition is pending.

- You should not travel outside of the U.S. while the petition is pending. Leaving the country will cause USCIS to consider your petition for a change of status to be abandoned. Your underlying petition may still be approved, but you would have to apply for a visa abroad to re-enter the U.S.

2. Traveling while an *extension of status* petition is pending.

- You must be in the U.S. when the petition for extension is filed with USCIS. Thereafter, travel is permissible.
- If the extension is approved while you are abroad, you must re-enter the U.S. using the new Approval Notice. This means that documents will need to be sent to you while abroad.
- If you try to re-enter the U.S. using your old Approval Notice, you would only be admitted until the expiration date of the old Approval Notice and you would likely have to travel abroad again to have this corrected.
- You must alert your immigration team of any travel plans while your extension is pending.

3. Traveling while your *extension of status* petition is pending and your *current visa has expired*.

- You should not travel abroad under the above circumstances because you need a current approval notice and visa to re-enter the U.S.
- If you must travel while your extension is pending and your visa has expired, you will need to remain outside of the U.S. until your petition is approved.
- Your case may be upgraded to premium processing to accelerate the adjudication process.

4. Traveling *after changing employers*

- If you have changed employers, you will need the valid Approval Notice for the new employer and a current visa to re-enter the US.
- If you have a valid visa from your previous employer, you may use that in conjunction with your new employer petition's Approval Notice.