VOLUME 6

SECTION 12

IMMIGRATION REQUIREMENTS

The Responsibility of the Immigration, Citizenship and Passport Services
25 Constant Spring Road
Kingston 10
Jamaica, West Indies

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CHAPTER I

JAMAICA'S IMMIGRATION PROCEDURES AND REQUIREMENTS

1.0 Mandate of the Immigration Service

The Immigration Citizenship and Passport Services Division is an agency of the Ministry of National Security. The Division aims to fulfill its mandate by offering high quality service to customers while ensuring that it plays an effective role within the security community.

I.I LEGISLATIVE BACKGROUND

Jamaica's Immigration procedures are based on the provisions in the following legislation:

- i Immigration Restriction (Commonwealth Citizens) Act (1945)
- ii Aliens Act (1946)
- iii Passport Act
- Any other legislation relevant to the Immigration, Citizenship and Passport Services aimed in general at controlling the entry, stay and exit of non-Jamaican nationals.

A distinction is made between Aliens and Commonwealth Citizens based on the definition of "Alien" in Section 2(1) of the Jamaican Nationality Act which defines an "Alien" as a person who is not a Commonwealth Citizen, a British protected person or a citizen of the Republic of Ireland.

1.2 GENERAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

The following are essential in determining a passenger's eligibility for entry into Jamaica:

- i valid travel document (with a visa where required);
- ii evidence of ability to support oneself;
- iii return ticket to country of residence with re-entry permit where

passenger is domiciled outside of country of birth

It should be noted that other considerations including health and security factors may also be taken into account.

I.3 VISITOR

A Non-Commonwealth national entering Jamaica is normally required to have a visa except where:

- i there is a visa abolition agreement with Jamaica; and
- ii the passenger is a North American citizen or resident entering Jamaica as a visitor.

United States and Canadian citizens may/may not travel on passport based on an agreement in the Tourist Regulations they can travel on the following documents;

- U.S. or Canadian Passport (with a minimum of six months validity)
- Original Copy of Canadian or U.S. Birth Certificate with a raised seal and Photo Identification Card [i.e. Driver's Licence, School Id for Students (16 and under)]
- United States Alien Resident Card (green card) holders
- United States Naturalization Certificate
- Canadian Permanent Resident Card (should be accompanied by a Passport)
- Canadian Citizenship Card

I.4 VISA REQUIREMENTS

As a general rule Commonwealth nationals are not required to have visas for travel to Jamaica, except for the nationals of the following countries and any other on which the Minister imposes a visa regime:

- i The Cayman Islands;
- ii Pakistan:

iii Sri Lanka; and

iv Nigeria.

The nationals of countries listed at Appendix 2A benefit from visa abolition agreements, which enable them to enter Jamaica as visitors for specific periods. All non–Commonwealth nationals entering to reside, study or to take up employment (including their dependents) require visas. Where there is no visa abolition agreement all other nationals are required to have visas prior to arrival (See Appendix 2B&C). Application should be made to the nearest Jamaican Consulate or High Commission. The nationals listed at Appendix 2D may obtain visas at the port of entry.

CHAPTER 2

EMPLOYMENT

2.0 Work Permit - Non Commonwealth Nationals

Non-Commonwealth nationals wishing to accept employment must obtain a work permit (or work permit exemption) from the Ministry of Labour and Social Security prior to their arrival in Jamaica. A visa is also to be procured prior to entry by applying to the nearest or most convenient Jamaican or British Mission for a visa supported by the following documents:

- i a valid passport;
- ii a valid work permit or work permit exemption letter issued by the Ministry of Labour; and
- iii a return ticket valid for a year

2.1 Work Permit - Commonwealth Nationals

Commonwealth Nationals are usually allowed to accept employment while in Jamaica providing they have obtained the required work permit. However nationals of the following countries must obtain a work permit and a visa prior to entry:

- i Cayman Islands;
- ii India (no visa required)
- iii Nigeria
- iv Pakistan; and
- v Sri-Lanka.

2.2 MARRIAGE

Persons who are married to Jamaican Nationals may apply for an Exemption Certificate from the Ministry of Labour and Social Security. On approval this should be presented to Immigration, Citizenship and Passport Services Division with their passports to have their status varied. The endorsement granted in this case is renewable every three years.

2.3 DEPENDENTS OF WORK PERMIT HOLDERS

Dependents are considered to be the wife and children under the age of 18. In special circumstances the parents of the employed person may be considered as dependents. Certified supporting documents should be produced to substantiate the relationship (for example, birth certificates and marriage certificates) with authenticated translation where applicable. Dependents are not permitted to be gainfully employed without prior approval.

2.4 Exemption from Visa and/or Work Permit

Persons, who are employed by owners or operators of aircraft operating an international service who enter Jamaica to perform duties on the aircraft are also exempt from work permit, visa and alien registration requirements.

2.5 SHORT-TERM BUSINESS

Foreign nationals entering the country to conduct short-term business (such as consultations, meetings, inspections, repairs, technical advice) are admissible as 'visitors' in accordance with the entry requirements applicable to the visitors from their respective countries. Each visit should not exceed thirty (30) days and the cumulative number of days within a calendar year should not exceed one hundred and eighty (180) days. The usual conditions remain in place with respect to persons who seek to be admitted on the basis of employment or study.

2.6 ALIEN REGISTRATION

Any alien over sixteen (16) who resides in the island for a period exceeding six (6) months must be registered by the police in the parish of residence or at the Immigration Headquarters in Kingston:

This process is to be supported by the following:

- i a valid passport;
- ii two (2) passport size photographs; and
- iii the applicable fee.

Upon completion of the process, a registration certificate or booklet is issued to be produced by the holder when making adjustments to his/her status in the island or when required by any police officer or immigration officer or any other person so authorized by the Minister for the purpose.

CHAPTER 3

OTHER TYPES OF VISAS

3.0 STUDENTS

Persons seeking to enter Jamaica to pursue academic studies should possess:

- i a valid passport;
- ii a valid visa for each entry (if Alien);
- iii original letter from an accredited academic institution granting admission;
- iv return ticket valid for one year;
- v accommodation; and
- vi proof of financial support or grants during their tenure.

Students who are nationals of Non-Commonwealth Countries over 16 years old must be registered as Aliens after arrival and are also subject to the guidelines mentioned at paragraph 1.4.

3.1 STUDENTS NOT ELIGIBLE TO WORK

The student endorsement does NOT allow him/her to work. It is expected that the student should leave the island on completion of his/her studies as the student permit is granted only for the duration of the course of study.

3.2 CHILDREN OF WORK PERMIT HOLDERS

Children of work permit holders (primary and secondary levels) may also be granted student endorsements for the duration of the contractual obligation of their parent (s).

3.3 EXTENSION OF STAY

Extension of stay may be granted to any traveller who is able to prove that he or she will not become a charge on public funds, inter alia and has a legitimate basis for remaining in Jamaica (see Appendix 4 and 5 for relevant forms.)

3.4 Permanent Residence Status

The following persons may apply for the grant of permanent residence:

- i foreign nationals who have lived in Jamaica for a minimum of two (2) years continuous residence;
- ii persons who have claim to Jamaican nationality;
- iii spouses of Jamaican nationals;
- iv retired persons who have resided in Jamaica for over three years; and
- w minors who have no claim to Jamaican nationality but who have resided in the island for a period exceeding two years (dependent children).

3.4.1 Application for Permanent Residence

Applicants for permanent residence are required to submit the following:

- current passport (and previous passport used to enter the island, if applicable);
- ii evidence of financial standing and proof of assets (such as, a lien on property or bank account)
- iii certified copy of Birth Certificate, marriage certificate and/or decree absolute/nisi;
- iv medical certificate from certified medical practitioner
- v police record (less than two years) issued by the state from which one is migrating;
- vi two (2) passport size photographs;
- vii reason for application; and
- viii names and contact information of two reputable Jamaican references

3.5 DIPLOMATIC AND OFFICIAL PASSPORT HOLDERS

All diplomats or persons assigned to Jamaica as an official representative of a state or international organization are required to have the following on arrival:

- i diplomatic, official or service passport;
- ii valid entry visa, where applicable (visa is issued gratis by the nearest Jamaican Consulate prior to arrival); and
- iii Note from Diplomatic, Consular Mission or international organization to which diplomat is assigned indicating the purpose and length of visit.

Other persons assigned in a non-diplomatic or official capacity to an Embassy, High Commission or international organization, who are neither the holder of a diplomatic or official passport are required to satisfy the entry and work permit requirements outlined in Chapters I and 2.

3.6 Unconditional Landing

Unconditional Landing is granted to persons who have claim to Jamaican citizenship either by descent, or by marriage or a Jamaican national in possession of a foreign passport, whether Commonwealth or Alien who has not formally renounced Jamaican citizenship.

3.6.1 Documents Required

Persons applying for unconditional landing are required to present the following documents:

- i Spouse
 - citizenship certificate
 - national passport
 - marriage certificate
- ii Minor
 - national passport
 - certified copy of birth certificate

certified copy of Jamaican mother/father's birth certificate.
 Please note that where father's birth certificate is being used, father's name should appear on the child's birth certificate

- notarized letter from parent (not resident in Jamaica) gathering approval to reside in Jamaica.
- iii Jamaican National (holder of a foreign passport)
 - certified copy of Jamaican birth certificate issued by the Registrar General's Office
 - Passport of Foreign country
 - Certified Marriage Certificate or Deed Poll (to support change of name, where applicable)
 - Certificate of Naturalization

3.7 RENUNCIATION OF JAMAICAN CITIZENSHIP

Any citizen of Jamaica of full age and capacity, who is also a citizen of another country, who has renounced his/her citizenship of Jamaica, will cease to be a citizen of Jamaica and will be treated in accordance with his/her new nationality. Such persons are not eligible for unconditional landing once Jamaican citizenship has been formerly renounced.

It should also be noted that the individual may also apply to the Ministry of Justice for the Restoration of Jamaican Citizenship.

CHAPTER 4

CARICOM NATIONALS

4.0 CARICOM NATIONALS

CARICOM Nationals (see Appendix 3) are:

- i entitled to free movement;
- ii freedom to acquire property; and
- iii freedom to engage in gainful employment.

4.1 Non-Grant of Entry

A CARICOM national, however, may not be granted entry into the island if he/she is:

- i likely to become a charge of the state;
- ii of unsound mind;
- iii suffering from a communicable disease;
- iv deemed by the Minister to be an undesirable visitor or inhabitant of the island; and
- v subject of a deportation or removal order.

4.2 VISITOR

CARICOM Nationals are subject to the guidelines mentioned at Chapter 1.2.

4.3 BUSINESS/EMPLOYMENT

A CARICOM National who enters the island with intention of establishing a business, providing a service or skilled labour, is subject to the following requirements:

4.3.1 Self-employed business person should present:

i valid passport issued from a qualifying CARICOM country;

- ii police certificate of character;
- proof of registration with the Chamber of Commerce in the applicant's member state or with agency responsible for registering of business (establishing a business);
- iv document required by the Ministry of Labour and Social Security;

4.3.2 Self-employed service provider should present

- i valid passport issued from a qualifying CARICOM country;
- ii police certificate;
- iii certificate of incorporation or registration license of a business and/or a professional licence; and
- iv any other document required by the Ministry of Labour and Social Security.

4.3.3 Skilled Labour should present

- i valid passport issued from a qualifying CARICOM country;
- ii police certificate;
- iii Certificate of Recognition of Caribbean Community Skills qualification; and
- iv any order document required by Ministry of Labour and Social Security

4.4 Exemption from Work Permit

The CARICOM national is required to visit the Ministry of Labour and Social Security to submit his/her qualifying certificates and other credentials. When this process is completed, he/she is then required to attend the Immigration, Citizenship and Passport Services Division to have his/her status varied. The applicant seeking the CARICOM skilled Nationals Certificate may apply for unconditional landing using same. The endorsement automatically exempts him/her from a work permit or work permit exemption.

4.5 CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information please contact:

Immigration, Citizenship & Passport Services 25 Constant Spring Road Kingston 10

Telephone (876) 906-1304 or (876) 754-4488

Fax: (876) 908-0154

Website: www.mns.gov.jm/immigration

Appendix I

Jamaican Immigration Card

Welcome to Jamaica Bienuenido Admission No: 4364480 Admission No: 4364480 Complete ALL Questions (1-29) and sign form, / Complete to todas las preguntas y firme. Please print using black or blue ink / Complete on letras en negro a zul.		
ARRIVAL RECORD / REGISTRO DE LLEGADA 1. Last Name / Apellido	OFFICIAL USE	ONLY
2. First Name / Nombre 3. Middle Name / Segundo Nombre	REMARKS:	
4. Date of Birth / 5. Sex / 6. I.D. No. or Passport No. / Sex / 6. I.D. No. or Passport No. / Numero de identidad o pasaporte M		
8. Country of Citizenship / País de ciudadania Jamaica		
10. Home Address / Direccion Particular (Street Address/Ant/	DOCUMENT PRESENTED OTHER THAN	PASSPORT
Unit Number / Calle/Apto) 11. City/Town / Ciudad/Pueblo State/Province / Estado/Provincia		
12. Zip/Postal Code / Codigo Postal 13. Country / Pais 14. Flight Number / Numero de Vuelo 14a. Name of Vessel / Nombre del buque (AB 1234) OR/O 15. Boarded At / Punto de Salida 16. Countries visited during last six weeks / Paises visitados durante las ultimas seis (6) semanas 17. Intended address in Jamaica / Dirección en que radicara en Jamaica (Hotels/Street Addressi/Apt/ Unit Number / Hotal / Calles/Apto) 18. City / Town / 19. Intended length of stay (nights) / Tiempo de estadia (noches) 18. City / Town / 19. Intended length of stay (nights) / Tiempo de estadia (noches) 18. City / Town / Supressi / Negoción Supressi / Sudy/Education Study/Education Study/Ed	IMMIGRATION OFFICER'S STAMP	B CUL DIP E H M NE PR RR RRV S SI T UL UN V
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2197513154 Departure No. 4364480	9125513152	
DEPARTURE RECORD / REGISTRO DE SALIDA Please retain Departure Record for presentation upon departure. Por favor guarde el registro de salida para presentario en el momento de su partida.	OFFICIAL USE	ONLY
22. First Name / Apellido 22. First Name / Nombre 23. Middle Name / Segundo Nombre 24. Date of Birth / Fecha de Nacimiento 25. I.D. No. or Passport No. / Numero de identifidad o pasaporte 26. Nationality / Nacionalidad 27. Sex / Sexo Male / Female / Female / Masculino 28. Flight Number / Número de Vuelo 28. Name of Vessel / Nombre del buque	IMMIGRATION OFFICER'S STAMP	B CUL DIP E H M NE PR RR RRV S SI T UL UN V
29. Departure Date / Fecha de Salida Signature / Firma	k	4

Appendix 2

VISA REQUIREMENTS BY COUNTRY

(A) The Nationals of the following Countries are permitted to stay in Jamaica for the stated number of days without a visa requirement. However, please note that any stay beyond the stated number of days will require the traveller to procure a visa.

Fourteen (14) Day Countries	Thirty (30) Day Countries	Ninety (90) Day Countries	One Hundred & Eighty (180) Day Countries
Venezuela	Argentina	Austria	United States of
			America
	Brazil	Belgium	
	Chile	Denmark	
	Costa Rica	Finland	
	Ecuador	Germany	
	France	Holland	
	Greece	Iceland	
	Hong Kong	Israel	
	Japan	Italy	
	Monaco	Liechtenstein	
	Portugal	Luxemburg	
	Spain	Mexico	
	Uruguay	Netherlands (including the	
		Antilles)	
		Norway	
		San Marino	
		South Korea	
		Suriname	
_		Sweden	
		Switzerland	
		Turkey	

B. COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES

Commonwealth Countries do not require a visa for travel to Jamaica, except the following:

The Cayman Islands	This visa must be acquired Prior to Arrival
Nigeria	This visa must be acquired Prior to Arrival
Pakistan	This visa must be acquired Prior to Arrival
Sri Lanka	This visa must be acquired Prior to Arrival

C. The following countries must obtain visas Prior to Arrival at the nearest Jamaican Consulate or High Commission:

Prior to Arrival					
Afghanistan	Libyan Arab Jamaihriya				
Algeria	Madagascar				
Angola	Mali				
Bahrain	Marshall Islands				

Appendix 2

Benin	Mauritania
Bhutan	Micronesia
Bolivia	Mongolia
Burkina Faso	Morocco
Burundi	Myanmar
Cambodia	Nepal
Cape Verde	Nicaragua
Central African Republic	Niger
Chad	Oman
China	Palau
Colombia	Panama
Comoros	Paraguay
Congo	Peru
Cote D'Ivoire	Philippines
Cuba	Qatar
Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea	Rwanda
(North Korea)	
Djibouti	Samoa (U.S.A.)
Dominican Republic	Sao Tome & Principe
Egypt	Saudi Arabia
El Salvador	Senegal
Equatorial Guinea	Somalia
Eritrea	Sudan
Ethiopia	Syrian Arab Republic
Gabon	Thailand
Guatemala	Togo
Guinea	Tunisia
Guinea-Bissau	United Arab Emirates
Haiti	Vietnam
Honduras	Yemen
Indonesia	Zaire
Islamic Republic of Iran	
Iraq	
Jordan	
Kuwait	
People's Democratic Republic of Laos	
Lebanon	
Liberia	
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D. The following countries may obtain visas at the Port of Entry in Jamaica:

Por	t of Entry
Albania	Latvia
Andorra	Lithuania
Armenia	Macedonia
Azerbaijan	Moldova
Belarus	Monaco
Bosnia & Herzegovina	Romania
Bulgaria	Russian Federation
Croatia	Slovenia
Czech & Slovak Federal Republic	Taiwan
Estonia	Tajikistan

Appendix 2

Georgia	Turkmenistan
Hungary	Ukraine
Kazakhstan	Uzbekistan
Kyrgyzstan	Yugoslavia

Appendix 3

CARICOM Qualifying States (Free Movement of Skilled Nationals)

- 1. Antigua and Barbuda
- 2. Barbados
- 3. Belize
- 4. Dominica
- 5. Grenada
- 6. Guyana
- 7. Montserrat
- 8. St. Christopher and Nevis
- 9. St. Lucia
- 10. St. Vincent and the Grenadines
- 11. Suriname
- 12. Trinidad and Tobago
- 13. Jamaica

Appendix 4

Extension of Stay Form

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Appendix 4

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Appendix 5

RE-ENTRY VISA APPLICATION FORM

FORM 1 APPLICATION FOR RE-ENTRY VISA

Mr., Mrs., Miss (strike out as required)		
	Destination	
Surname		
Christian Names		
NationalityNat. at Birth		
Place of Birth	Port of DepartureDate	•••••
Date of Birth.	Purpose of Journey (In Detail)	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •
If Nationality Changed give Place and Date		•••••
	Permanent Address.	
	Local Address.	
Passport No		
Date of IssueValid To	If you have ever been known by any name other th	an tha
	given in the Passport, note same here	
•		
REFERENCES—Give below the Names of	of two References in Jamaica by whom you are well known Address Nationality	
Name	Address Nationality	
Name	Address Nationality	
Name 1	Address Nationality	
Name 1	Address Nationality h the following Additional Information:—	
Name 1	Address Nationality h the following Additional Information:—	
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