

F. No. 26011/Misc/71/2018-OCI  
Govt. of India  
Ministry of Home Affairs  
(Foreigners Division)  
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Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium,  
New Delhi- 110002.  
Dated: 28.03 2019.

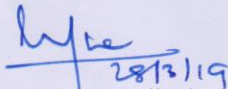
OFFICE MEMORANDUM

**Subject: Extension of timeline for handwritten travel document/PIO cards beyond 31st March, 2019.**  
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The undersigned is directed to refer to this Ministry's O.M. of even No. dated 01.10.2018 thereby clarifying that the PIO card will be accepted as valid travel document till March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019 along with valid foreign passport and if in the meantime any deadline is notified by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) thereby making hand-written PIO card invalid, then PIO card holders may have to obtain appropriate visa from Indian Missions, if they have not converted their PIO cards to OCI cards. It was also clarified that Indian Immigration Check Post(s) will continue to consider all PIO card as valid document alongwith valid a foreign passport till 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.

2. The matter has been reviewed and it has been decided, with the approval of competent authority, that the Bureau of Immigration (BoI) will accept PIO cards as valid travel document till 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2019 alongwith valid foreign passport and the Indian Immigration Check Post(s) will continue to consider all PIO cards valid for exit/entry into India till 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2019. This extension of timeline is subject to the condition that if in the meantime any deadline is notified by the ICAO thereby making hand written PIO cards invalid, then PIO cardholders may have to obtain appropriate visa from India Missions/Posts abroad. The situation will be further reviewed in September, 2019.

3. Indian Missions/Posts abroad may be requested to advise all the PIO cardholders with valid PIO cards as on 09.01.2015 to apply for conversion of PIO card to OCI card as per the guidelines mentioned in this Ministry's letter no. 26011/06/2015-OCI dated 16-07-2015 and 10-03-2016.

  
(Manoj Kumar Jha)  
Deputy Secretary to the Govt. of India  
Tel: 23010618

To

Shri Amit Narang  
Joint Secretary (CPV)  
M/o External Affairs,  
Patiala House Annexe, New Delhi- 110002.

Copy to: Shri Rajiv Ranjan Verma, Joint Director, BoI w.r.t IB's U.O. No. 8/OCI/Policy/2019-413 dated 20 March, 2019.