

MOST IMMEDIATE

No. 26011/06/2015-OCI
Government of India
Ministry of Home Affairs
(Foreigners Division)

NDCC II Building, Jai Singh Road
New Delhi, the 29th January, 2015

To

1. All Indian Missions/ Posts abroad
2. FRROs – Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Amritsar, Bangalore
Hyderabad, Kochi, Thiruvananthapuram, Calicut, Goa and
Lucknow.

**Subject : Dispensing with the requirement of 'U' visa sticker on the
foreign passport of an Overseas Citizen of India (OCI)
cardholder**

Sir,

I am directed to say that as per the extant procedure, while issuing the OCI (Overseas Citizen of India) card to the foreign nationals who are eligible for such a Card, a multiple lifelong 'U' (Universal) Visa sticker is pasted on the foreign passport of such applicants. The OCI cardholders are required to carry the OCI card as well as the foreign passport containing the 'U' visa sticker while they enter/ exit India. It has come to notice that many OCI cardholders do not carry the passport containing the 'U' visa sticker while they enter/ exit India and consequently face problems at the Immigration counter.

2. The question of dispensing with the 'U' visa sticker on the foreign passport of the OCI cardholder has been under consideration for some time. It has been decided, with the approval of the competent authority, to dispense with the 'U' (Universal) visa sticker on the foreign passport of OCI cardholders with immediate effect and to modify the OCI registration certificate in the form booklet to provide for the endorsement "Visa validity-Lifelong". Instructions have been issued separately to the authorities

concerned to stop the printing of 'U' visa stickers and to print the OCI registration certificate booklet with the endorsement "Visa validity – Lifelong". However, the present stock of such 'U' visa stickers will be consumed.

3. Accordingly, all Immigration authorities in the ICPs are requested **not** to insist on production of the foreign passport containing the 'U' visa sticker in the case of OCI cardholders while they enter/ exit India and the immigration clearance may be granted based on production of the OCI card only.

4. These instructions shall come into force with immediate effect.

Yours faithfully

B.V.R. Murthy

(B.V.R. Murthy)

Under Secretary (Foreigners)