



MANUAL TRANSMITTAL

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

9.11.2

FEBRUARY 21, 2025

EFFECTIVE DATE

(02-21-2025)

PURPOSE

- (1) This transmits revised IRM 9.11.2, Domestic and Foreign Travel.

MATERIAL CHANGES

- (1) Added required Internal Controls to comply with IRM 1.11.2.2.4, Address Management and Internal Controls and IRM 1.4.2, Resource Guide for Managers Monitoring and Improving Internal Controls.
- (2) Updated International Operations, CI:IO, to Global Operations, CI:GO, throughout the IRM.
- (3) Subsection 9.11.2.3(2) added “Additionally, the country you are in may require a Visa.”
- (4) Added subsection 9.11.2.4.1(4).
- (5) Updated all references to “CI:IO web sites” to “CI:GO SharePoint site” throughout the IRM.
- (6) Editorial changes made throughout the IRM for clarity.

EFFECT ON OTHER DOCUMENTS

This IRM supersedes IRM 9.11.2, dated December 17, 2020.

AUDIENCE

Criminal Investigation (CI)

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9.11.2

Domestic and Foreign Travel

Table of Contents

9.11.2.1 Program Scope and Objectives

9.11.2.1.1 Background

9.11.2.1.2 Authority

9.11.2.1.3 Roles and Responsibilities

9.11.2.1.4 Program Management and Review

9.11.2.1.5 Program Controls

9.11.2.1.6 Acronyms

9.11.2.1.7 Related Resources

9.11.2.2 Domestic Travel

9.11.2.2.1 Inter-Office Travel

9.11.2.2.2 Travel with a Firearm

9.11.2.2.3 Travel with Oleoresin Capsicum Spray

9.11.2.3 Travel To Puerto Rico, The United States Virgin Islands & Guam

9.11.2.4 Foreign Travel

9.11.2.4.1 Requests for Authorization

9.11.2.4.2 Travel to Canada

9.11.2.4.3 Travel by United States Flag Air Carriers

9.11.2.4.4 Official Passports

9.11.2.4.5 Immunization Requirements

9.11.2.4.6 Firearms in a Foreign Country

9.11.2.4.7 Personnel Recovery

9.11.2.4.8 Security Training Requirements for Foreign Travel

9.11.2.5 Travel Pursuant to Undercover Operations

9.11.2.6 Travel Pursuant to Simultaneous Criminal Investigation Program

9.11.2.1
(02-21-2025)
Program Scope and Objectives

- (1) Purpose: This section covers only those travel issues concerning Criminal Investigation (CI) that are not covered in IRM 9.4.8, Undercover Operations, or in IRM 1.32.1, Official IRS Travel Guide. The topics discussed in this section include:
 - Domestic Travel
 - Travel to Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, and Guam
 - Foreign Travel
 - Travel Pursuant to Undercover Operations
 - Travel Pursuant to Simultaneous Criminal Investigation Program
- (2) Audience: All CI employees.
- (3) Policy Owner: Director, Global Operations (GO).
- (4) Program Owner: Director, Global Operations (GO).
- (5) Primary Stakeholders: All CI employees.
- (6) Contract Information: To make changes to this IRM section email CIHQIRM@ci.irs.gov.

9.11.2.1.1
(02-21-2025)
Background

- (1) Global Operations leverages multi-agency overseas assets, trained international staff, and strong foreign partnerships to identify emerging international threats, increase CI's ability to obtain access to data, secure information, and develop significant international investigative leads.

9.11.2.1.2
(12-17-2020)
Authority

- (1) IRM 9.1.2, Authority for delegated authority relating to 9.11.2, Domestic and Foreign Travel.
- (2) Treasury Directive 73-01, Personal Property Management.
- (3) IRM 1.32.1, Official Travel Guide.

9.11.2.1.3
(02-21-2025)
Roles and Responsibilities

- (1) The Director, GO is responsible for developing, maintaining, and overseeing this IRM and ensuring compliance with current policies and procedures.

9.11.2.1.4
(02-21-2025)
Program Management and Review

- (1) The Director, GO will:
 - a. Review the IRM manually.
 - b. Update the IRM when content is no longer accurate and reliable.
 - c. Incorporate all permanent interim content into the next revision of the IRM section prior to the expiration date.

9.11.2.1.5
(02-21-2025)
Program Controls

- (1) The Director, GO will review the instructions and guidelines relating to the investigation of tax returns and other IRS documents for procedural, operational, and editorial changes.

9.11.2.1.6
(02-21-2025)
Acronyms

- (1) The table lists commonly used acronyms and their definitions:

Acronym	Definition
CI	Criminal Investigation
CI/CW	Confidential Informant/Cooperating Witness
COA	Computer Operations Administrator
DFO	Director of Field Office
DOS	Department of State
DTI	Duluth Travel Inc.
EPIC	El Paso Intelligence Center
FAM	Federal Air Marshal
FTR	Foreign Travel Request
GO	Global Operations
HT-SOS	High Threat Security Overseas Seminar
ISC	In-Flight Security Coordinator
IsoPREP	Isolated Personnel Report
ICs	Internal Controls
KSA	Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities
LB&I	Large Business and International
LEO	Law Enforcement Officer
OC	Oleoresin Capsicum
PED	Portable Electronic Device
PRT	Personnel Recovery Team
SAC	Special Agent in Charge
SCIP	Simultaneous Criminal Investigation Program
TAAS	Tax Administration Advisory Services
TOC	Treasury Operations Center
TSA	Transportation Security Administration

9.11.2.1.7
(02-21-2025)
Related Resources

- (1) IRM 1.32.1, Official IRS Travel Guide.
- (2) IRM 9.2.3, Use of Force Procedures.
- (3) IRM 9.4.2, Sources of Information.
- (4) IRM 9.11.3, Investigative Property.

9.11.2.2
(12-17-2020)
Domestic Travel

- (1) Criminal Investigation's unique requirements regarding domestic travel include the following topics:
 - a. Inter-office travel;
 - b. Travel with a firearm;
 - c. Travel with OC spray.

9.11.2.2.1
(12-17-2020)
Inter-Office Travel

- (1) When a special agent from one field office makes investigative inquiries in another, the SAC of the field office where the inquiries are to be made will be advised of:
 - a. The nature of the proposed inquiries,
 - b. The name of the special agent,
 - c. The places to be visited.
- (2) If advance notice is not consistent with the maintenance of adequate security of communications, notification should occur at the first possible opportunity.
- (3) Travel expenses in excess of \$100, incurred to allow invitational travelers (e.g., state or local officers, key witnesses, etc.) to accompany special agents must be charged to the CI central billed (corporate) account. Invitational travelers should not purchase transportation from their personal funds.
- (4) Non-bargaining unit employees accompanying special agents must use their own Government-issued travel charge card.

9.11.2.2.2
(02-21-2025)
Travel with a Firearm

- (1) Special Agents must be familiar with the provisions set forth in the TSA training material: Law Enforcement Officers Flying Armed, dated June 2014, when traveling with a firearm. The TSA training material specifies current federal regulations that special agents must adhere to. These regulations continually change and therefore are not detailed here. Criminal Investigation has enhanced the existing regulations (which must be reviewed and complied with) as follows:
 - a. After declaring to an airline that they are flying armed as a federal law enforcement officer and receiving approval to do so, special agents must carry their handgun on their person at all times until the termination of their flight. Special agents are not permitted to carry their handgun, either loaded or unloaded, in checked or carry-on luggage under any circumstances. This helps ensure special agents comply with regulations to maintain absolute control over their handgun at all times when flying armed.
 - b. If special agents are flying with a long gun and are checking it in, they are subject to the TSA Policy Regulations.
 - c. The best practices for traveling with a carry-on long gun are as follows:

i.	Remove upper from lower and pack both parts in a lockable backpack stored in agent's immediate control.
ii.	Ammunition should be stored separately if possible, ideally in a different bag.
iii.	The bolt should be removed and secured on the agent's person or under the seat in front of them in another bag and always under the agent's immediate control. This level of disassembly prevents the unlikely use of the weapon against the agent and aircraft.

- (2) The pilot-in-command (Captain) is the ISC of an aircraft. The Captain is directly responsible for, and is the final authority as to the operation of the aircraft. The ISC has the authority to deny boarding of any person believed to be a hazard to the flight. Neither the ISC nor the flight crew, however, has the authority to take possession of a LEO's firearm.
- (3) Special agents are not authorized by law to initiate emergency action during a flight emergency or disturbance unless requested to do so by a uniformed member of the crew or unless human life is clearly and imminently at risk. Special agents may also respond to a request for assistance by a FAM, if the FAM's identity has been verified. If FAMs are not present on the aircraft, special agents should take necessary action to prevent loss of life or serious bodily injury pursuant to IRM 9.2.3, Use of Force Procedures.
- (4) Special agents must maintain a professional demeanor aboard aircraft and act accordingly. Additionally, special agents will:
 - a. Notify the airline carrier at least one hour prior to departure, or in an emergency as soon as practicable, of the need to fly armed;
 - b. Not consume alcoholic beverages during the 8 hours prior to flying, or during the flight;
 - c. Request to meet other armed LEO's on board the aircraft;
 - d. Be discreet and not unnecessarily display a firearm;
 - e. Maintain absolute control over the firearm at all times;
 - f. Identify themselves by presenting their credentials upon request to the uniformed crew or FAMs.
- (5) All procedures for security of firearms and ammunition (see IRM 9.11.3, Investigative Property) should be adhered to by the agent traveling with a firearm. When making lodging reservations, a room equipped with a safe should be reserved to provide adequate security for a firearm when it is not under the agent's immediate control.
- (6) See subsection 9.11.2.4.6, Firearms in a Foreign Country, for procedures to carry a firearm into a foreign country.

9.11.2.2.3
(12-17-2020)
**Travel with Oleoresin
Capsicum Spray**

- (1) Oleoresin Capsicum spray is not permitted on board an aircraft under any circumstances (see 49 CFR 175). Criminal Investigation issued OC spray may, however, be transported within checked baggage pursuant to 49 CFR 175.10(a)(9).

9.11.2.3
(02-21-2025)
**Travel To Puerto Rico,
The United States Virgin
Islands & Guam**

- (1) Travel to the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, and Guam is considered domestic or non-foreign travel. In the event that travel to any United States territory or possession is contemplated, the SAC, of the Miami field office (for Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and/or the United States Virgin Islands), or the SAC Seattle Field Office (for Guam) must be advised and provided the information required by IRM 9.11.2.2.1(1), Inter-Office Travel.
- (2) If travel includes a stopover on foreign soil, a Form 1321, Authorization for Official Travel, and an official passport are required. Additionally, the country may require a Visa. See the following subsection on Foreign Travel concerning these items.

9.11.2.4
(12-17-2020)
Foreign Travel

- (1) This subsection contains administrative procedures governing foreign travel and includes:
- Requests for authorization to engage in foreign travel.
 - Travel to Canada.
 - Travel by United States Flag Air Carriers.
 - Official passports.
 - Immunization requirements.
 - Firearms policy.
 - Personnel Recovery.

9.11.2.4.1
(02-21-2025)
Requests for Authorization

- (1) Requests for authorization for a special agent or other CI personnel to engage in foreign travel will be obtained by submitting Form 1321 (Rev. 04-2024) to the Deputy Commissioner, LB&I through the Director, CI:GO. Form 1321, known as an Authorization for Official Travel, should be submitted to CI:GO no later than thirty (30) days from the expected date of travel. A Form 1321 is submitted by the SAC of the respective field office with the concurrence of the Director, Field Operations. The form must be signed by LB&I's Deputy Commissioner prior to any foreign travel being conducted. The Director, Field Operation's office will forward the entire package to the "CI-HQ-International Foreign Travel Request" mailbox. The CI:GO office will forward the package to the Manager, TAAS Division (LB&I) for approval. Upon final approval of Form 1321 and receipt of country clearances, the employee will be notified and provided electronic copies of the clearances.
- (2) Travel to foreign areas may require a security clearance if official duties are being performed at an Embassy or Consulate. The valid levels of security clearances are Confidential, Secret, or Top Secret. If the special agent does not have a Secret or Top-Secret clearance, they can request an "Interim Top-Secret" clearance from the Personnel Security Office.
- (3) A separate Form 1321 must be submitted for each traveler.
- (4) Visas are required for certain countries. Countries requiring a visa rely on various factors such as permanent duty station travel, temporary duty station travel, travel for working at an embassy location, etc. Obtaining Visas require more time for GO to process Forms 1321 as they have to physically obtain them from the specific country's embassy in Washington, D.C.
- (5) A Form 1321 must contain the following information:
- a. Section 1 - Traveler Information -
 - Name of traveler (first, middle, and last name);
 - Traveler's country/state of birth;
 - Traveler's official duty station;
 - Traveler's official passport number (if the traveler's official passport application is in process, include the date and place filed (see IRM 9.11.2.4.4, Official Passports, for information regarding the use of official passports by IRM employees and officials);
 - Traveler should specify if travel will include personal travel or rest periods (if applicable, traveler should provide detailed justification in Section 7 of the forms).
 - b. Section 2 - Type of Travel Requested -
 - Specify type of travel requested and mode of transportation;

- Provide travel dates (include annual leave days if scheduled during the same period and the specific dates of travel);
- And the cost of airfare.

Note: A copy of the DTI itinerary must be attached.

- c. Section 3 - Employee Health, Safety, Laptop/PDA Security and Government Credit Card Exemption Request -
-Traveler should place a check mark on the applicable items.
- d. Section 4 - Approving Officials' Signatures for Business Class or International Travel and Cyber Security.
-Form 1231 states business class approval is requested through TD-F 70.02.6 First-Class/Business-Class Travel Approval Request.
- e. Section 5 - International Travel and Government Credit Card Exemption Authorization.
- f. Section 6 - International Travelers Information -
-Traveler should indicate their office address - IRS, CI mailing address (no Post Office boxes), telephone number, office e-mail, fax number and indicate specific type of security clearance held - if standard, state "None."
-Purpose of travel - the traveler should check one of the following: Tax case, Non-Tax case, Both, Discovery/ Gathering evidence, Delivering training, Attending meeting with Gov. Officials, Other, Sensitive operation.

Note: If the traveler is a CI employee, the traveler should **not** provide sensitive case related information in the narrative section.

-Traveler should list hotel information where they will be staying - Name, address, and phone number.

-Traveler should indicate emergency contact information.

- g. Section 7 - Other Information -
-If applicable, the traveler should list all foreign countries to be visited.
-Traveler should list Criminal Investigation case name and CIMIS number - If applicable.
-Expressions of interest - on the part of the countries to be visited - include names and titles of host government officials contacted and/or American Embassy contacts; and any information provided by the American Embassy concerning the visit.
-Provide a copy of the invitation letter from taxpayer(s)/subject(s) or their representative(s) (if applicable) and name and nationality of individual(s) to be contacted (include verification they have consented to this meeting).

- (6) When travel is related to a grand jury investigation, the AUSA handling the investigation should be consulted and must concur with the purpose of the travel.
- (7) An application for an official passport and FTR should be made as soon as foreign travel is anticipated. If the traveler has a current personal passport or a personal or official passport that expired within the past 15 years, these requests should be made no later than 30 business days from the expected date of travel. If the traveler never had a passport, or it expired more than 15 years ago, these requests should be made no later than 45 business days from the expected date of travel.

- (8) Foreign Travel Requests for multiple countries should be submitted as soon as possible. These requests require additional time to secure all necessary country authorizations and clearances for travel.
- (9) If the foreign travel is urgent and the FTR cannot be submitted 30 business days from departure, it is highly recommended that the traveler call DTI directly to book their airline reservations. Emergency FTRs will be handled as expeditiously as possible. However, it is incumbent upon field personnel to ensure that these types of requests are rare exceptions dictated by special circumstances. In these instances, no assurances can be made that the travel authorization will be obtained by the specified travel dates. As soon as it is learned that an emergency FTR is necessary, the special agent should contact CI:GO to start the travel authorization process.
- (10) After the Director, CI:GO reviews the FTR for completeness, the requests are forwarded to the Attaché/Deputy Commissioner, LB&I for processing of country clearance. Foreign Travel Requests not submitted to the Director, CI:GO within the specified time frames will be returned to the appropriate Director, Field Operations, unless it is an emergency request as noted in the preceding paragraph.
- (11) If for any reason the travel is denied, the Deputy Commissioner, LB&I will notify the Director, CI:GO who in turn will advise the SAC of the field office requesting the travel.
- (12) Special agents should contact CI:GO prior to submitting a Form 1321.
- (13) Special agents traveling with their computers must contact their local COA to have the proper system changes installed prior to departing for an international post of duty.
- (14) Executives and managers of CI will undertake foreign travel only when absolutely essential. Foreign Travel Requests by executives and managers will be submitted in accordance with applicable travel regulations, and will include detailed information concerning the nature of the travel, justification for the travel, and the mode of travel will be submitted with the request.
- (15) See IRM 9.4.2, Sources of Information, regarding special procedures authorizing the use of a CI/CW when the CI/CW is a foreign national or foreign travel of a CI/CW is anticipated.
- (16) The traveler will promptly notify the Administrative Officer and Director, CI:GO if scheduled travel is postponed or cancelled.

9.11.2.4.2
(02-21-2025)
Travel to Canada

- (1) The guidelines that apply to all foreign travel apply to travel to Canada.
- (2) Consent from a taxpayer, witness, or custodian of records to be interviewed is required prior to traveling to Canada when the contact is related to a tax investigation. The required consent is governed by the United States-Canada Travel Agreement.
- (3) Upon approval of the travel by the Deputy Commissioner, LB&I, the Director, CI:GO will obtain the necessary clearances and furnish the originating office with the procedure to be followed and, where appropriate, the name and

location of the Canadian tax official who is to be contacted by the special agent. A Canadian agent will usually accompany the special agent when third-party contacts are made.

- (4) For all travel to Canada, an FTR will be prepared in accordance with the instructions provided in IRM 9.11.2.4.1, Requests for Authorization.

9.11.2.4.3 (12-16-2008)

Travel by United States Flag Air Carriers

- (1) All air travel occurring between the United States and a foreign country or between foreign countries must be by "certificated" air carriers whenever service by these carriers is available.
- (2) Certificated air carriers are carriers holding certificates under the Federal Aviation Act of 1958, excluding foreign air carriers operating under these permits. Certificated air carriers are also known as "contract carriers." See IRM 1.32, Servicewide Travel Policies and Procedures.

9.11.2.4.4 (02-21-2025)

Official Passports

- (1) Each officer or employee of the IRS traveling under official orders to foreign countries must have a valid United States official passport. No official passport is needed for travel to any U.S. territory.
- (2) An application for an official passport should be made as soon as foreign travel is anticipated. If the traveler has a current personal passport or a personal or official passport that expired within the past 15 years, these requests should be made no later than 30 business days from the expected date of travel. If the traveler never had a passport, or it expired more than 15 years ago, these requests should be made no later than 45 business days from the expected date of travel.
- (3) A tourist passport is not appropriate for official travel.
- (4) The Director, CI:GO, has been delegated authority to request official passports. Procedures for obtaining official passports are contained on the CI:GO:ILSO SharePoint site together with the applicable forms. If you have any questions about the procedures consult with CI:GO.
- (5) The official passport remains the property of the federal government and is only to be used for approved official government travel. Upon receipt of the passport from the U.S. DOS, CI:GO will send it to the relevant Field Office or HQ Equipment Coordinator for issuance to the employee. Issuance will be recorded in CIMIS and the employee will be required to sign a Custody Receipt for Government Property (Form 1390 EQR01) at the time of issuance. IRS CI personnel will maintain possession and be responsible for the custody and security of their issued official passports. Issued official passports will be included in the annual equipment inventory in accordance with IRM 9.11.3.6.2, Equipment Inventories. During Director of Field Office (DFO) reviews, a representative random sample of passports issued to employees in the Field Office will be audited.
- (6) Lost or stolen official passports will be reported to CI:GO immediately upon discovery so the passport can be cancelled (in addition to the procedures in IRM 9.11.3.9.1, Lost, Stolen, Damaged, or Destroyed Property). Procedures for reporting the loss and obtaining a replacement passport are located on the CI:GO SharePoint site.

- (7) Official passport holders are responsible for tracking the expiration dates of their issued passports, ensuring that renewal is requested if needed before planned travel, and ensuring it has sufficient blank pages for necessary visas and stamps. In general, passports should have at least six months remaining validity at the completion of planned travel. Procedures for renewing official passports are contained on the CI:GO SharePoint site together with the applicable forms.
- (8) Travelers should consult the CI:GO:ILS SharePoint site for foreign travel request approval procedures, visa procedures, and to obtain the required electronic country clearance from the DOS. All visas need to be obtained through CI:GO; travelers should NOT contact foreign embassies or consulates directly to obtain these. Official passport holders may need to send their official passports to CI:GO to obtain visas.
- (9) Upon retirement or separation from the IRS, the clearing official must collect the issued official passport and send it to CI:GO for cancellation or destruction.

9.11.2.4.5
(12-17-2020)
**Immunization
Requirements**

- (1) United States residents visiting foreign countries may be required to have in their possession an "International Certificate of Vaccination". This certificate and all up-to-date information regarding immunization requirements of the country to be visited can ordinarily be obtained at the nearest office of the United States Public Health Service or the Department of State (DOS). The DOS website, www.state.gov, provides this information.
- (2) Required immunizations should be obtained through United States government facilities, including the United States Public Health Service or DOS, when available. If government facilities are not available, or if it is not otherwise practicable to use such facilities, the services of a private physician may be utilized and reimbursed on a public travel voucher (Form 1034).

9.11.2.4.6
(02-21-2025)
**Firearms in a Foreign
Country**

- (1) Under no circumstances will special agents carry firearms into foreign countries without the specific and written approval of the appropriate Ambassador. Requests for approval to carry firearms or electronic surveillance equipment into a foreign country need to be included in a request for foreign travel and will be coordinated through the Director, CI:GO. Only in extremely rare occasions will special agents be granted approval.

9.11.2.4.7
(02-21-2025)
Personnel Recovery

- (1) Any employee traveling internationally will be required to complete an IsoPREP Form and provide a facial photo. This information will be utilized to accurately identify an employee in the event they become isolated while on official assignment overseas and to negate any attempt by foreign combatants to deceive the responding recovery team. Employees will also be required to view the Level I training video.
- (2) Employees traveling will bring their IRS issued PED (presently the Samsung Galaxy 9) with the AtHoc software installed, and tracking activated. The approval to travel with the PED will be noted on the Form 1321. Global Operations will provide travelers with guidance on AtHoc activation and usage. The AtHoc software provides tracking and an emergency alert function. Once the emergency alert is activated, the PRT will be notified and every effort will be

made to safely return the employee and/or family member back under agency control. Additional assets will be brought into play when it's deemed appropriate.

- (3) Employees working abroad will be required to complete the IsoPREP Form, provide a facial photo, and complete the Level I training video. Employees and spouses assigned to high risk areas will be assigned a tracking device and required to participate in the Level II training hosted by the Drug Enforcement Administration.
- (4) The EPIC will serve as the PRT's secondary alert system for personnel permanently stationed abroad. The Treasury Operations Center (TOC) will be the alert system for international travelers. In the event an emergency alert is activated, the EPIC or the TOC will contact the PRT to ensure the alert was received and the appropriate notifications have been made.
- (5) The TOC monitors world events and may reach out to travelers in case of an incident in or near the traveler's location for safety checks and to provide incident information. The TOC can be contacted at (202) 622-1825 or TOC@treasury.gov.

9.11.2.4.8
(02-21-2025)
**Security Training
Requirements for
Foreign Travel**

- (1) All persons traveling internationally must comply with the DOS training requirements in effect at the time of travel. Currently all travelers must complete the HT-SOS. The HT-SOS is a five-hour online course valid for six years. Completion date of the training will need to be included on the Form 1321, Authorization for Official Travel in Section 6. Travelers will need to supply a copy of the course completion certificate to CI:GO. Employees needing the HT-SOS travel need to contact the CI:GO mailbox to begin the enrollment process.
- (2) Persons traveling overseas more than 45 days in a fiscal year may also be required to complete the Foreign Affairs Counter Threat course. This course requires significant lead time for enrollment in a training program. Therefore, any employee anticipating traveling more than 45 days in a fiscal year should consult the CI:GO as soon as possible.
- (3) Other training requirements may be added by DOS at any time for specific areas or for all travel. All employees anticipating foreign travel should consult the CI:GO website to determine current travel requirements.

9.11.2.5
(02-21-2025)
**Travel Pursuant to
Undercover Operations**

- (1) For all foreign travel, coordination is required between Director, CI:GO and Director, Special Investigative Techniques.

9.11.2.6
(02-21-2025)
**Travel Pursuant to
Simultaneous Criminal
Investigation Program**

- (1) The SCIP is outlined in IRM 9.4.2, Sources of Information. Once the request for continuous travel Form 1321, Authorization for Official Travel, is submitted to CI:GO they will coordinate the processing with the Office of the Director, International (LB&I:TAAS) for authority to travel on a trip-by-trip basis.