

FREE MOVEMENT OF OECS CITIZENS TAKES EFFECT

Written by Media

Friday, 05 August 2011 13:09 - Last Updated Friday, 05 August 2011 13:13

Monday August 1, 2011 heralded the commencement of full free movement of OECS citizens throughout the six independent countries of the Organisation. Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines agreed that, from that date, they would permit OECS citizens to enter their territories and remain for an indefinite period in order to work, establish businesses, provide services or reside.

Free movement of OECS citizens is one of the fundamental aspects of the Revised Treaty of Basseterre establishing the OECS Economic Union, which entered into force on January 21, 2011. On that date the OECS Authority of Heads of Government agreed that August 01, 2011 would be the implementation date for the regime for the complete free movement of citizens of participating Member States.

In order to facilitate the free movement of citizens, the following administrative arrangements and procedures are in effect in Member States:

OECS citizens traveling within the Economic Union should enter the special immigration lines designated for CARICOM Nationals.

OECS citizens traveling within the Union must produce the following documents to the immigration Officials at the point of entry: -

1. A **valid** photo identification card that bears the nationality of the holder, for example, a passport, driver's license, voter's registration card or a national ID card.
2. A completed E/D form.

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The immigration official shall grant entry for an indefinite period, save and except in those circumstances where the citizen poses a security risk or there exists some other legal basis for prohibiting entry to the citizen.

Persons who require additional information or who are interested in giving feedback are encouraged to contact the Regional Integration Unit of their Member State. They may also contact the OECS Secretariat in St. Lucia at telephone (758)-455-6327 or send us an e-mail: [e gisaac@oeecs.org](mailto:gisaac@oeecs.org)

or

llphilip@oeecs.org

with a copy to

ccombie@oeecs.org

. Information is also available on the OECS website

www.oeecs.org

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