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

*****
NDCC II Building, Jai Singh Road
New Delhi, the 26th 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

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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)
Under Secretary (Foreigners)