

Terrorism-Related Grounds of Inadmissibility Fact Sheet

Terrorism-Related Inadmissibility Grounds (TRIG) is a complex subject. This fact sheet will introduce you to TRIG, but you should consult with a lawyer for information related to your specific situation, as each case is different.

What is TRIG? TRIG refers to a section of immigration law contained in the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA section 212(a)(3B)) which is codified in Title 8 of the U.S. Code (8 U.S.C., section 1182(a)(3)(B)). Generally, any individual who is a member of a “terrorist organization” or who has engaged or engages in terrorism-related activity as defined by the INA is “inadmissible” (not allowed to enter) the United States and is ineligible for most immigration benefits. Additional information about TRIG is available at the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) TRIG [website](#).

Who does TRIG impact? TRIG may affect non-U.S. citizens who engage in certain activities or associations with armed groups that fall within the TRIG provisions. Sometimes TRIG can apply to persons and to actions not commonly thought of as “terrorism.” For additional information on what kinds of activities or associations may implicate TRIG, please see the [USCIS TRIG website](#).

Are there TRIG Exemptions? Yes, but exemptions are determined on a case-by-case and discretionary basis. Under section 212(d)(3)(B)(i) of the INA, the Secretaries of State and Homeland Security, in consultation with each other and the Attorney General, can authorize exemptions from TRIG for much of the activity covered under the statute. All applicants undergo a rigorous screening and vetting process, and only individuals who pass these comprehensive security checks can be considered for an exemption.

Adjudicating officers apply exemptions only after determining that the applicant:

- is eligible for the benefit they are seeking.
- meets the criteria for an exemption.
- presents no danger to the safety and security of the United States.
- merits the exemption in the totality of circumstances.

USCIS provides more information about TRIG exemptions, including the types of exemptions currently authorized, [on their website](#).

What should I tell my lawyer about TRIG or the TRIG exemptions that apply in my case?

Commensurate with the eligibility requirements for any TRIG exemption, you should fully disclose, to the best of your knowledge, the nature and circumstances of any activities and associations you may have had with any terrorist organization or armed group.

It is important to share as much detail as possible about the circumstances of any prior activity or association with any armed group, including the reason(s) why such activity and/or association occurred.

Additional Resources:

- USCIS TRIG website (<https://www.uscis.gov/laws-and-policy/other-resources/terrorism-related-inadmissibility-grounds-trig>).
- USCIS TRIG Exemptions (<https://www.uscis.gov/laws-and-policy/other-resources/terrorism-related-inadmissibility-grounds-trig/terrorism-related-inadmissibility-grounds-exemptions>).
- USCIS TRIG Situational Exemption information (<https://www.uscis.gov/laws-and-policy/other-resources/terrorism-related-inadmissibility-grounds-trig/terrorism-related-inadmissibility-grounds-trig-situational-exemptions>).