

EB-2 National Interest Waiver: A U.S. Long-Term Residency Pathway for Skilled Pilots and Their Families

LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM, June 16, 2025 /EINPresswire.com/ -- In response to continued demand for aviation professionals across North America, international law firm [Harvey Law Group](#) is drawing attention to the [EB-2 National Interest Waiver \(NIW\)](#) as a viable U.S. immigration pathway for experienced international pilots and their immediate families. The EB-2 NIW allows eligible applicants to apply for a U.S. green card without requiring employer sponsorship or a fixed job offer.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, approximately 18,500 new pilot openings are projected each year through 2032. Boeing's 2024 Commercial Market Outlook forecasts that over 120,000 pilots will be required in North America over the next 20 years. These figures reflect sustained needs across commercial, cargo, and specialized aviation sectors.

LONG-TERM U.S. RESIDENCY BENEFITS FOR PILOTS AND THEIR FAMILIES

Unlike temporary non-immigrant visa options, such as the O-1 (Individuals with Extraordinary Ability) or the L-1 (Intra-Company Transferee), the EB-2 NIW offers a route to permanent residency that is not tied to a single job, employer, or visa renewal schedule.

For qualified pilots, the program offers:

- A ten-year U.S. green card, renewable and independent of employer status
- Freedom to change jobs or aviation sectors without affecting legal status
- The opportunity to apply for U.S. citizenship after five years of residence

The benefits extend to family members as well. A legal spouse and unmarried children under 21 are eligible for derivative permanent resident status. Spouses may work in any field without separate authorization, and children can enroll in U.S. public schools and may qualify for in-state tuition at public universities.

This structure provides flexibility and stability for aviation professionals whose employment may shift due to operational demands, changing flight rosters, or employer transitions.

WHO COUNTS AS A DEPENDENT?

Dependents under the EB-2 NIW are defined as a legal spouse and unmarried children under 21 at the time of green card issuance. Under the Child Status Protection Act (CSPA), a child's age may be "frozen" during processing. This provision helps families remain eligible even if a child turns 21 while the petition is underway.

ELIGIBILITY FOR PILOTS: MEETING THE EB-2 NIW CRITERIA

To qualify, applicants must demonstrate either an advanced degree or exceptional ability in their profession, along with evidence that their work benefits the United States in areas of national interest.

In the case of pilots, this may include:

- 1) Academic credentials, such as a diploma, degree, or certificate from a recognized aviation or technical institution
- 2) At least 10 years of full-time flying experience
- 3) A valid pilot's license or certification
- 4) Professional earnings appropriate to their skill and experience level
- 5) Membership in relevant pilot or aviation associations
- 6) Endorsements or recognition from employers, peers, government authorities, or professional bodies
- 7) Additional responsibilities, such as training other pilots, supervisory roles, or specialized duties that demonstrate expertise

The application is adjudicated by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), which considers the applicant's qualifications alongside the broader significance of their work.

LEGAL PERSPECTIVE: LONG-TERM RESIDENCY PLANNING FOR AVIATION FAMILIES

Harvey Law Group, an international law firm with experience advising pilots and aviation professionals, identifies the EB-2 NIW as one of the most adaptable residency options currently available to families relocating to the United States. The structure of the program supports long-term career mobility for the principal applicant while enabling spouses and children to integrate into American work and education systems without dependency on a single job or employer.

In addition to pilots, Harvey Law Group regularly advises professionals in related fields, including STEM specialists and Aircraft Maintenance Engineers (AMEs), whose skills also align with U.S. national interest criteria under the EB-2 NIW framework.

As the aviation sector continues to evolve globally, the EB-2 NIW offers a practical solution for skilled professionals seeking both career advancement and lasting family settlement in the U.S.

Jean François Harvey
Harvey Law Group

contact@harveylawcorporation.com

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