

Recommendation #6
E-Filing

On August 16, 2004, the Ombudsman made the following recommendation to USCIS: *the establishment of a separate fee structure for the “e-filing” of applications/petitions so that a different (lower) fee is permitted for filing an e-file application/petition than is required for a conventional paper-based filing.*

USCIS responded to the Ombudsman on December 17, 2004 and again on May 25, 2005. We agreed with the principle of the recommendation, though its implementation has not yet become practical. USCIS is exploring the possibility of mandatory electronic filing in connection with its business systems transformation efforts, which would render the recommendation moot.

The Ombudsman did not have any follow-up to the USCIS response and we consider this recommendation closed.