



Press Release

September 2, 2005

DHS Announces 12-Month Extension of Temporary Protected Status for Burundi

Employment Authorization Documents Extended by Stickers Through February 2006

WASHINGTON – The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) today announced a 12-month extension of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Burundi until November 2, 2006. Under this extension, those who have already been granted TPS are eligible to live and work in the United States for an additional year and continue to maintain their TPS status. Persons covered by this extension must promptly re-register with USCIS using the instructions below.

Section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act authorizes the Secretary of Homeland Security (the “Secretary”) to grant TPS to aliens in the United States who are nationals of countries that are suffering the effects of ongoing armed conflict, environmental disaster, or other extraordinary and temporary conditions. On November 9, 1999, the Attorney General (who retained authority over TPS designations prior to the creation of the DHS on March 1, 2003) re-designated TPS for Burundi based on the ongoing armed conflict and extraordinary and temporary conditions existing in Burundi that prevent nationals of Burundi from returning to Burundi in safety. Since that time, the U.S. Government has continued to examine conditions in Burundi and DHS has determined that an extension of TPS is warranted because the ongoing armed conflict and extraordinary and temporary conditions that prompted the current re-designation and subsequent extensions persist.

The extension of Burundi’s designation for TPS is effective November 2, 2005 and will remain in effect until November 2, 2006. Nationals of Burundi (or those with no nationality who last habitually resided in Burundi) who have been granted TPS must re-register for the 12-month extension during the 60-day re-registration period, which begins on September 2, 2005, and will remain in effect until November 1, 2005. **To ensure timely scheduling for biometric collection at a U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Application Support Center (ASC) and to prevent a lapse in employment authorization, Burundi TPS beneficiaries are encouraged to file their applications as quickly as possible.**

To ensure minimal disruption of employment authorization while TPS re-registration applications are processed, a sticker will be affixed to the current EAD of an eligible TPS beneficiary at the time biometrics are collected at the ASC. **This sticker will extend the current EAD through February 28, 2006. Therefore, all re-registrants who have previously been issued a TPS-related EAD must bring their current EAD to the ASC.** They should also bring their ASC appointment notice and TPS receipt notice. Note that the EAD extension sticker will be provided only at the ASC. The USCIS district offices and sub-offices will not be providing this service.

Instructions for re-registering for TPS have changed. Re-registration applications must be mailed to the USCIS Lockbox addresses noted below. Applicants should **not** submit applications to USCIS District Offices or sub-offices as they have done in the past.

To re-register for TPS under this extension, each applicant must submit Form I-821 (Application for Temporary Protected Status) without filing fee, Form I-765 (Application for Employment Authorization), and a \$70 biometric services fee. Applicants under the age of 14, who are not requesting an Employment Authorization Document (EAD), need not submit the \$70 biometric services fee. All applicants seeking a new EAD to be valid through November 2, 2006, must also submit a \$175 filing fee. An applicant who seeks only to re-register for TPS and does not seek an EAD need not submit the \$175 filing fee but still must submit the Form I-765. Applicants may request a fee waiver for the Form I-765 in accordance with the regulations; however, the biometric services fee will not be waived. Failure to properly complete and submit Forms I-821 and I-765 with all applicable fees and/or fee waivers may delay processing or lead to the rejection of the re-registration application.

Unlike previous re-registration periods, applicants are not required to submit a photograph with their re-registration material, as both photographs and fingerprints, i.e., biometrics, will be collected at the ASC. In order to obtain an appointment at the ASC, you must file a re-registration package (including I-821, I-765 and applicable fees as stated above). Applicants will then be notified of their ASC appointment by mail.

The Form I-821, Form I-765, fees, and any required supporting documentation must be filed at the USCIS Chicago Lockbox at:

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
Attn: TPS Burundi
P.O. Box 87583
Chicago, IL 60680-0583

Or, for non-United States Postal Service deliveries:

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
Attn: TPS Burundi
427 S. LaSalle – 3rd Floor
Chicago, IL 60605

Please note that these addresses are not the same as where TPS application packages were submitted during previous re-registration periods for Burundi. Also note that USCIS has published a revised Form I-821. **Only Form I-821 with Revision Date 11/5/04 will be accepted.** Earlier versions of this form will be rejected. The newly revised form, as well as other forms, is available on the USCIS web site at www.uscis.gov, at local USCIS offices, and via the USCIS Forms line, 1-800-870-3676.

Employers with questions on how to verify an employee's work authorization may also consult the USCIS web site at <http://uscis.gov/graphics/services/employerinfo/index.htm> or call the USCIS Office of Business Liaison Employer Hotline at 1-800-357-2099 to speak to a USCIS representative. Also, employers may call the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Special Counsel for Immigration Related Unfair Employment Practices (OSC) Employer Hotline at 1-800-255-8155 or 1-800-362-2735 (TDD). Employees or applicants may call the OSC Employee Hotline at 1-800-255-7688 or 1-800-237-2515 (TDD) for information regarding the automatic extension. Assistance with Spanish and other languages is available through the OSC

Employer Hotline and OSC Employee Hotline. Additional information is available on the OSC web site at <http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/osc/index.html>.

More information can be obtained from the USCIS National Customer Service Center toll-free number: 1-800-375-5283.

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On March 1, 2003, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) became one of three former Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) components to join the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. USCIS is charged with fundamentally transforming and improving the delivery of immigration and citizenship services, while enhancing the integrity of our nation's security.