

July 23, 2007

USCIS Update

USCIS DISCONTINUES USE OF “PREPAID MAILERS” FOR ISSUING NOTICES AND DOCUMENTS

WASHINGTON – U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) wishes to advise the public that as of July 30, 2007, USCIS’ Service Centers will only accept “prepaid mailers” for Refugee Travel documents and Reentry Permits given their high rate of expedited handling. USCIS has, for some time, allowed the public to enclose “prepaid mailers” in connection with applications or petitions filed with USCIS. A prepaid mailer is essentially a self-addressed envelope, where postage is paid by the addressee that USCIS may use for mailing a document to the petitioner/applicant or their authorized representative. USCIS will no longer accept prepaid mailers or envelopes from any courier service for the purpose of mailing any **other** document, including, for example:

- Notice of Action (Form I-797)
- Requests for Evidence
- Notices of Intent to Deny
- Decisions (approvals or denials)
- Advance Parole Documents

USCIS will send such documents through regular mail via the United States Postal Service. The use of prepaid mailers often slows down USCIS adjudication processes by requiring special treatment of such envelopes and results in inappropriate charges to the government when the account numbers provided by filers with the mailers are invalid or not in good standing. Other than for Refugee Travel documents and Reentry Permits, if prepaid mailers or envelopes are received at a Service Center after July 30, 2007, they will be discarded and not used.

Prepaid mailers that will be accepted for the Refugee Travel document and Reentry Permits are not required. If an applicant nonetheless wishes to submit one, it must meet the following criteria: Express and Priority mail (including Fed Ex, DHL, or UPS) with appropriate postage with prepaid shipping label on the package already paid by person who sends it, e.g., Fed Ex “Expanded Billable Stamp”, or DHS “Easy Return Label”, among others.

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