



Office of Communications

U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

USCIS Update

November 1, 2007

USCIS REOPENS COMMENT PERIOD ON PROPOSED RULE FOR RELIGIOUS WORKER VISA CLASSIFICATIONS

WASHINGTON—U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced today that it is reopening the public comment period until November 16, 2007, on a proposed rule for special immigrant (SR/SD) and nonimmigrant (R-1) religious worker visa classifications. The notice extending the comment period is published in today's [Federal Register](#).

In addition, the *Federal Register* notice informs the public that USCIS will consider comments received between the close of the original comment period (June 25, 2007) and November 16, 2007.

USCIS reopened the record to give interested persons additional time to review and comment on the proposed rule that highlights steps to eliminate fraud in the religious worker program and streamlines the process for legitimate petitioners.

Key revisions to the proposal, originally published in an [April 25, 2007 Federal Register](#) notice, include an across-the-board petition requirement allowing USCIS to verify both the legitimacy of the petitioner and the job offer before a visa is issued or the worker is admitted to the United States, and a reduction in the initial period of admission for a non-immigrant from three years to one.

More information on the proposed revisions for religious worker classifications is available in an accompanying [Fact Sheet](#). The proposal is also available for review at www.regulations.gov (DHS Docket #USCIS-2005-0030).

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