

USCIS Update

Dec. 12, 2008

Employment Authorization Documents Extended for Nationals of El Salvador Six-Month Extension for Eligible Temporary Protected Status Beneficiaries

WASHINGTON – USCIS announced today an automatic extension of the validity of Employment Authorization Documents (EADs) for eligible Salvadoran TPS beneficiaries for six months through Sept. 9, 2009. This will allow sufficient time for eligible TPS beneficiaries to re-register and receive an EAD without any lapse in employment authorization. Initially, the expiration date for Salvadorians EADs was March 9, 2009. USCIS has automatically extended EADs validity period to allow for the agency to process and re-issue new EADs for such beneficiaries.

USCIS announced Sept. 24, 2008 that it will extend TPS status for nationals of El Salvador who have already been granted TPS through Sept. 9, 2010. Salvadoran nationals (and people having no nationality who last habitually resided in El Salvador) who have been granted TPS must re-register for the 18-month extension during the 90-day re-registration period that began on Oct. 1, 2008 and ends Dec. 30, 2008. TPS does not apply to nationals of El Salvador who entered the United States after Feb. 13, 2001.

TPS beneficiaries must submit the <u>Application for Temporary Protected Status</u> Form I-821 without the application fee and the <u>Application for Employment Authorization</u> Form I-765 in order to re-register for TPS. A separate biometric service fee, or a fee waiver request, must be submitted by re-registrants, 14-years of age and older. If the applicant is only seeking to re-register for TPS and is not seeking an extension of employment authorization, he or she must submit Form I-765 for data-gathering purposes only and is not required to submit the I-765 filing fee. All applicants seeking an extension of employment authorization through Sept. 9, 2010 must submit the required application filing fee with Form I-765. Failure to submit the required filing fees or a properly documented fee waiver request will result in the rejection of the re-registration application.

Further details on the automatic extension of the EADs, including the application requirements and procedures, will appear in a *Federal Register* notice scheduled for publication on Dec. 15. More information can also be obtained from the USCIS National Customer Service Center toll-free number 1-800-375-5283. TPS forms are available from the toll-free USCIS Forms line, 1-800-870-3676, or from the USCIS Web site, www.uscis.gov.

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