



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

August 25, 2004

Questions and Answers

DHS TERMINATES AND REDESIGNATES TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS (TPS) FOR LIBERIA FOR 12-MONTHS

Temporary Protected Status (TPS) is granted to eligible nationals of designated countries suffering the effects of an ongoing-armed conflict, environmental disaster, or other extraordinary and temporary conditions. During the period for which the Secretary of Homeland Security has designated a country for TPS, beneficiaries may not be removed from the United States and are authorized to engage in employment.

TPS does not lead to permanent resident status, however. When the Secretary terminates a country's designation, the alien will return to the status he/she had prior to TPS or to any other status he/she may have obtained while registered for TPS.

Q. If I currently have TPS through the Liberia TPS designation, do I have to register for the new TPS designation?

A. Yes. If you already have received TPS benefits through the Liberia TPS designation, your benefits will expire on October 1, 2004. Accordingly, individual TPS beneficiaries must comply with the registration requirements described below in order to maintain your TPS benefits through October 1, 2005. TPS benefits include temporary protection against removal from the United States, as well as employment authorization, during the TPS designation period and any extension thereof. 8 U.S. C. 1254a(a)(1).

Registration is limited to nationals of Liberia (or in the case of an alien having no nationality, a person who last habitually resided in Liberia) who have continuously resided in the United States since October 1, 2002, and who are admissible as an immigrant may be eligible. An individual who has been convicted in the United States of either a felony or two or more misdemeanors committed in the United States is ineligible for TPS. Likewise, an individual subject to a criminal, security-related, or any other bar to asylum is ineligible for TPS.

Q. How do I register for a TPS?

A. If you already have been granted TPS through the most recent Liberia TPS Program, your TPS will expire on October 1, 2004. Individuals may register for TPS by submitting the following to the local USCIS district office:



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- Application for Temporary Protected Status, Form I-821;
- Application for Employment Authorization, Form I-765;
- Two identification photographs (FULL FACE FRONTAL, 2"x 2"); and
- Supporting evidence as required to establish eligibility for TPS benefits; and
- Required fees, as applicable. (see below)

NOTE: Registration is available to all nationals of Liberia (or in the case of an alien having no nationality, a person who last habitually resided in Liberia) who meet the TPS eligibility requirements, regardless of whether or not the applicant previously applied for or was granted TPS.

Fees: All TPS registrants must submit a \$50 fee with Form I-821. If the applicant is between the ages of 14 and 65 (inclusive) and requests employment authorization, he or she must submit a \$175 fee with Form I-765. An applicant who does not seek employment authorization need not submit the \$175 fee, but nonetheless must submit the Form I-765 for data-gathering purposes. Applicants 14 and older will be fingerprinted at an Application Support Center (ASC) and therefore must also submit a \$70 biometric services. The applicant may request a fee waiver in accordance with the regulations.

Failure to submit the required photographs and filing fees will result in the rejection of the registration application.

Forms: All TPS applicants are advised that a new Form I-821, Application for Temporary Protected Status, has been released. The form is available online at www.uscis.gov. The form will also be available at local USCIS offices. The older version of Form I-821 will continue to be accepted until September 30, 2004. After September 30, 2004 applications submitted on the earlier version of Form I-821 will be rejected.

Where to file: The USCIS office having jurisdiction over your place of residence will accept this TPS application, either in person or through the mail, or both. For filing instructions, please inquire by calling the USCIS call center at 1-800-375-5283 or by visiting a local USCIS office.

Q. The registration period ends after my EAD expires. Is my EAD extended through the registration period?

A. No. USCIS sought to give TPS beneficiaries a full 180 days to re-register. However, those Liberia TPS beneficiaries who are applying for work authorization should do so before their current EAD expires.

Interim EADs will not be issued to an applicant unless the Form I-765 (Application for Employment Authorization) has been pending with USCIS more than 90 days after all requested initial evidence has been received by USCIS, including collection of the applicant's fingerprints at an ASC. Therefore, applicants are encouraged to appear at an ASC for fingerprints as soon as possible after submission of the TPS registration package to a USCIS district office.



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Q. If I entered the United States after October 1, 2002, would I qualify for benefits under TPS?

A. No. Although this re-designation changes the required date of continuous physical presence in the U.S. to August 25, 2004, the requisite date of continuous residence has not changed. Applicants must have continuously resided in the United States since October 1, 2002.

Q. How long will the TPS designation last?

A. The re-designation of Liberia for TPS is effective for 12 months, from October 1, 2004 through October 1, 2005.

Q. Specifically, what factors were considered in making the decision to re-designate Liberia for TPS for 12 months?

A. On October 1, 2002, the Attorney General (who retained authority over TPS designations prior to the creation of DHS on March 1, 2003) designated Liberia for TPS based on an ongoing armed conflict. Since that time, the U.S. Government has continuously examined conditions in Liberia and recently determined that, because the armed conflict has concluded, the conditions that prompted designation no longer exist. Accordingly, the Secretary of DHS is terminating the designation of Liberia for TPS under 8 U.S. C. 1254a(b)(3)(B). However, the Secretary of DHS finds that there are extraordinary and temporary conditions in Liberia that prevent the safe return of certain nationals of Liberia (or aliens having no nationality who last habitually resided in Liberia). The protracted civil war in Liberia has damaged Liberia's infrastructure. Eighty percent of the pre-war housing stock has been damaged. Less than ten percent of the arable land is under cultivation. Food security, shelter, water, sanitation, and healthcare remain practically non-existent. Therefore, the re-designation of Liberia for TPS is warranted less than 8 U.S. C. 1254a(b)(1)(C).

Q. Will nationals of Liberia (or aliens having no nationality who last habitually resided in Liberia) who are granted TPS be permitted to travel abroad during the TPS re-designation?

A. Those aliens granted TPS must receive advance permission to return to the United States before traveling abroad. This advance permission is called Advance Parole and can be obtained by filing Form I-131, Application for Travel Document, with the USCIS. Failure to obtain advance parole prior to traveling abroad may result in the withdrawal of your TPS and/or the institution or re-calendar of removal proceedings.

Q. Where can I obtain forms and additional information?

A. Information concerning TPS is available at the USCIS web site: www.uscis.gov or the USCIS National Customer Service Center, at 1-800-375-5283. Applicants may obtain forms from the USCIS web site or by contacting the USCIS Forms Line, 1-800-870-3676.



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