

## 9 FAM 42.55 PROCEDURAL NOTES

*(CT:VISA-1007; 09-05-2008)*  
*(Office of Origin: CA/VO/L/R)*

### 9 FAM 42.55 PN1 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR PROCESSING “DOCUMENTARILY QUALIFIED” APPLICANTS

#### 9 FAM 42.55 PN1.1 Qualifying Dates

*(CT:VISA-1007; 09-05-2008)*

“Qualifying dates” are established by the Department to ensure that applicants will not be officially informed of requisite supporting documentation *requirements* prematurely, i.e., prior to the time that the availability of a visa number within a reasonable period *can be foreseen*. *Therefore*, post or *National Visa Center (NVC)* will not officially and proactively notify applicants of additional processing requirements unless the qualifying date set by the Department (CA/VO/F/I) encompasses the alien’s priority date. Otherwise, it is likely that some documents would be out-of-date by the time a visa number is available and delay in final action would result. *Nevertheless*, should an applicant or agent request information concerning additional processing requirements, this information may be provided at any time with a warning that some documents may expire if obtained too early in the process.

#### 9 FAM 42.55 PN1.2 “Documentarily Qualified” Applicants

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“Documentarily qualified” means that the alien has returned *Form DS-2001, Notification of Applicant Readiness*, or *has* otherwise informed the post or *NVC* that all required documents have been obtained, and that *all clearance procedures have been completed*. Under some circumstances, consular managers may establish other screening mechanisms to verify that an applicant is documentarily qualified (see *9 FAM 42.63 PN9*). As post is notified during the reporting period that an applicant is documentarily qualified, the automated visa processing system should be updated as soon

as possible. (See [9 FAM 42.55 N1.](#))