

this **Federal Register** notice regarding the automatic extension of employment authorization documentation to March 9, 2004. In the alternative, any legally acceptable document or combination of documents listed in List A, List B, or List C of the Form I-9 may be presented as proof of identity and employment eligibility; it is the choice of the employee.

How May Employers Determine Whether an EAD Has Been Automatically Extended Through March 9, 2004 and Is Therefore Acceptable for Completion of the Form I-9?

For purposes of verifying identity and employment eligibility or re-verifying employment eligibility on the Form I-9 until March 9, 2004, employers of El Salvador TPS class members whose employment authorization has been automatically extended by this notice must accept an EAD that contains an expiration date of September 9, 2003, To be eligible for the automatic extension, the EAD must be either (1) a Form I-766 bearing the notation "A-12" or "C-19" on the face of the card under "Category", or (2) a Form I-688B bearing the notation "274A.12(A)(12)" or "274A.12(C)(19)" on the face of the card under "Provision of Law". New EADs or extension stickers showing the March 9, 2004 expiration date will not be issued.

Employers should not request proof of Salvadoran citizenship. Employers presented with an EAD that this **Federal Register** notice has extended automatically, that appears to be genuine and that relates to the employee should accept the document as a valid "List A" document and should not ask for additional Form I-9 documentation. This action by the Secretary of the DHS through this **Federal Register** notice does not affect the right of an employee to present any legally acceptable document as proof of identity and eligibility for employment.

Employers are reminded that the laws prohibiting unfair immigration-related employment practices remain in full force. For questions, employers may call the BCIS' Office of Business Liaison Employer Hotline at 1-800-357-2099 to speak to a BCIS representative. Also, employers may call the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Special Counsel for Immigration Related Unfair Employment Practices (OSC) Employer Hotline at 1-800-255-8155, or 1-800-362-2735 (TDD). Employees or applicants may call the OSC Employee Hotline at 1-800-255-7688, or 1-800-237-2515 (TDD) for information regarding the automatic extension.

Additional information is available on the OSC Web site at <http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/osc/index.html>.

What Happens When This Extension of TPS Expires on March 9, 2005?

At least 60 days before this extension of TPS expires on March 9, 2005, the Secretary of DHS will review conditions in El Salvador and determine whether the conditions for designation under the TPS program continue to be met at that time, or whether the TPS designation should be terminated. Notice of that determination, including the basis for the determination, will be published in the **Federal Register**.

If the TPS designation is extended at that time, an alien who has received TPS benefits must re-register under the extension in order to maintain TPS benefits. If, however, the Secretary of DHS terminates the TPS designation, TPS beneficiaries will maintain the immigration status they had before TPS (unless that status had since expired or been terminated) or any other status they may have acquired while registered for TPS. Accordingly, if an alien had no lawful immigration status prior to receiving TPS and did not obtain any status during the TPS period, he or she will revert to that unlawful status upon termination of the TPS designation.

Notice of Extension of Designation of El Salvador Under the TPS Program

By the authority vested in me as Secretary of DHS under sections 244(b)(1)(B), (b)(3)(A), and (b)(3)(C) of the Act, I have consulted with the appropriate government agencies and determine that the conditions that prompted designation of El Salvador for TPS continue to be met (8 U.S.C. 1254a(b)(3)(A)). Accordingly, I order as follows:

(1) The designation of El Salvador under section 244(b) of the Act is extended for an additional 18-month period from September 9, 2003, to March 9, 2005 (8 U.S.C. 1254a(b)(3)(C)).

(2) There are approximately 290,000 nationals of El Salvador (or aliens having no nationality who last habitually resided in El Salvador) who have been granted TPS and who are eligible for re-registration.

(3) To maintain TPS, a national of El Salvador (or an alien having no nationality who last habitually resided in El Salvador) who received TPS during the initial designation period must re-register for TPS during the 60-day re-registration period from July 16, 2003 until September 15, 2003.

(4) To re-register, the applicant must file the following: (1) Form I-821, Application for Temporary Protected

Status; (2) Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization; and (3) two identification photographs (1½ inches by 1½ inches). Applications submitted without the required fee and/or photos will be returned to the applicant. There is no fee for filing a Form I-821 as part of the re-registration application. If the applicant requests employment authorization, he or she must submit one hundred and twenty dollars (\$120) or a properly documented fee waiver request, pursuant to 8 CFR 244.20, with the Form I-765. An applicant who does not request employment authorization must nonetheless file Form I-765 along with Form I-821, but is not required to submit the fee. The fifty-dollar (\$50) fingerprint fee is required only for children beneficiaries of TPS who have reached the age of 14 but were not previously fingerprinted. Failure to re-register without good cause will result in the withdrawal of TPS (8 CFR 244.17(c)). Some persons who had not previously applied for TPS may be eligible for late initial registration under 8 CFR 244.2.

(5) At least 60 days before this extension terminates on March 9, 2005, the Secretary of DHS will review the designation of El Salvador under the TPS program and determine whether the conditions for designation continue to be met (8 U.S.C. 1254a(b)(3)(A)). Notice of that determination, including the basis for the determination, will be published in the **Federal Register** (8 U.S.C. 1254a(b)(3)(A)).

(6) TPS-related Employment Authorization Documents that expire on September 9, 2003, are extended automatically until March 9, 2004, for qualified Salvadorans.

(7) Information concerning the extension of designation of El Salvador under the TPS program will be available at local BCIS offices upon publication of this notice and on the BCIS Web site at <http://www.bcis.gov/graphics/index.htm>.

Dated: July 9, 2003.

Tom Ridge,

Secretary of Homeland Security.

[FR Doc. 03-17872 Filed 7-15-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4410-10-P

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Coast Guard

[USCG-2003-15648]

Towing Safety Advisory Committee; Charter Renewal

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DHS.