

considering whether to apply for temporary accreditation. The accrediting entity must evaluate the applicant for temporary accreditation in a timely fashion. The accrediting entity must use its best efforts to provide a reasonable opportunity for an agency that applies for temporary accreditation by the transitional application deadline to complete the temporary accreditation process by the deadline for initial accreditation or approval. If an agency seeks temporary accreditation under subpart N of this part, it will be included on the initial list deposited by the Secretary with the Permanent Bureau of the Hague Conference on Private International Law only if it is granted temporary accreditation by the deadline for initial accreditation or approval established pursuant to § 96.19(a).

§ 96.98 Length of temporary accreditation period.

(a) *One-year temporary accreditation.* An agency that has provided adoption services in 50–99 intercountry adoptions in the calendar year preceding the year in which the transitional application deadline falls may apply for a one-year period of temporary accreditation. The one-year period will commence on the date that the Convention enters into force for the United States.

(b) *Two-year temporary accreditation.* An agency that has provided adoption services in fewer than 50 intercountry adoptions in the calendar year preceding the year in which the transitional application deadline falls may apply for a two-year period of temporary accreditation. The two-year period will commence on the date that the Convention enters into force for the United States.

§ 96.99 Converting an application for temporary accreditation to an application for full accreditation.

(a) The accrediting entity may, in its discretion, permit an agency that has applied for temporary accreditation to convert its application to an application for full accreditation, subject to submission of any additional required documentation, information, and fee(s). The accrediting entity may grant a request for conversion if the accrediting entity has determined that the applicant is not in fact eligible for temporary accreditation based on the number of adoption cases it has handled; if the agency has concluded that it can complete the full accreditation process sooner than expected; or for any other reason that the accrediting entity deems appropriate.

(b) If an application is converted, it will be treated as an application filed after the transitional application deadline, and the agency may not necessarily be provided an opportunity to complete the accreditation process in time to be included on the initial list of accredited agencies and approved persons that the Secretary will deposit with the Permanent Bureau of the Hague Conference on Private International Law.

§ 96.100 Procedures for evaluating applicants for temporary accreditation.

(a) To evaluate an agency for temporary accreditation, the accrediting entity must:

(1) Review the agency's written application and supporting documentation; and

(2) Verify the information provided by the agency, as appropriate. The accrediting entity may also request additional documentation and information from the agency in support of the application as it deems necessary.

(b) The accrediting entity may also decide, in its discretion, that it must conduct a site visit to determine whether to approve the application for temporary accreditation. The site visit may include interviews with birth parents, adoptive parent(s), prospective adoptive parent(s), and adult adoptee(s) served by the agency, interviews with the agency's employees, and interviews with other individual(s) knowledgeable about its provision of adoption services. It may also include a review of on-site documents. The accrediting entity must, to the extent possible, advise the agency or person in advance of documents it wishes to review during the site visit. The provisions of §§ 96.25 and 96.26 will govern requests for and use of information.

(c) Before deciding whether to grant temporary accreditation to the agency, the accrediting entity may, in its discretion, advise the agency of any deficiencies that may hinder or prevent its temporary accreditation and defer a decision to allow the agency to correct the deficiencies.

(d) The accrediting entity may only use the criteria contained in § 96.96 when determining whether an agency is eligible for temporary accreditation.

(e) The eligibility criteria contained in § 96.96 and the standards contained in § 96.104 do not eliminate the need for an agency to comply fully with the laws of the jurisdictions in which it operates. An agency must provide adoption services in Convention cases consistent with the laws of any State in which it operates and with the Convention and the IAA.

§ 96.101 Notification of temporary accreditation decisions.

(a) The accrediting entity must notify agencies of its temporary accreditation decisions on the uniform notification date to be established by the Secretary pursuant to § 96.58(a). On that date, the accrediting entity must inform each applicant and the Secretary in writing whether the agency has been granted temporary accreditation. The accrediting entity may not provide any information about its temporary accreditation decisions to any agency or to the public until the uniform notification date. If the Secretary requests information on the interim or final status of an agency prior to the uniform notification date, the accrediting entity must provide such information to the Secretary.

(b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a) of this section, the accrediting entity may, in its discretion, communicate with agencies about the status of their pending applications for temporary accreditation for the sole purpose of affording them an opportunity to correct deficiencies that may hinder their temporary accreditation. When informed by an accrediting entity that an agency has been temporarily accredited, the Secretary will take appropriate steps to ensure that relevant information about the temporarily accredited agency is provided to the Permanent Bureau of the Hague Conference on Private International Law.

§ 96.102 Review of temporary accreditation decisions.

There is no administrative or judicial review of an accrediting entity's decision to deny temporary accreditation.

§ 96.103 Oversight by accrediting entities.

(a) The accrediting entity must oversee an agency that it has temporarily accredited by monitoring whether the agency is in substantial compliance with the standards contained in § 96.104 and through the process of assessing the agency's application for full accreditation when it is filed. The accrediting entity must also investigate any complaints or other information that becomes available to it about an agency it has temporarily accredited. Complaints against a temporarily accredited agency must be handled in accordance with subpart J of this part. For purposes of subpart J of this part, the temporarily accredited agency will be treated as if it were a fully accredited agency, except that:

(1) The relevant standards will be those contained in § 96.104 rather than