



July 28, 2006

# Public Notice

## **USCIS REMINDS CUSTOMERS OF FILING CHANGE FOR EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION DOCUMENTS**

### *Local Offices To Stop Processing and Producing EADs*

Washington, DC – In November 2004, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) published a notice in the [Federal Register](#) informing the public that, as of April 1, 2005, individuals must file Applications for Employment Authorization, (Forms I-765) at one of the four USCIS Service Centers or the National Benefits Center (via the Chicago Lockbox). The instructions to [Form I-765](#), Application for Employment Authorization, with addendum, have reflected this change since then. In the interim, some USCIS offices have continued to accept employment authorization applications and have produced Employment Authorization Cards (Form I-688B) using local systems.

### **Why Eliminate Local Filings?**

USCIS is discontinuing local production of Form I-688B Employment Authorization Card (EAC) in favor of Form I-765 Employment Authorization Document (EAD) produced at one central location using national systems. The locally produced I-688B lacks security features and is not well suited to employment verification by employers.

### **Final Implementation**

Offices that have continued to accept applications locally may, in their discretion, continue to accept certain employment authorization applications until October 1, 2006. After September 1, 2006, however, such local offices will no longer process those cases and will only forward them for Service Centers processing. Customers seeking the fastest service should send their applications directly to the appropriate Service Center or Chicago Lockbox as indicated on the Form I-765 instructions. As of October 1, 2006, USCIS local offices will no longer accept any Form I-765 filings. Local Offices will work with community, legal and law enforcement organizations to eliminate local filings of Form I-765.

### **Interim EADs**

The discontinuation of locally produced EACs will not prohibit customers from using InfoPass to schedule an appointment for an interim employment document when USCIS hasn't adjudicated the original Form I-765 within 90 days. Customers should take great care to attend all appointments, including biometrics appointments, and respond promptly to all requests for evidence sent from USCIS.

Failure to attend a biometrics appointment, or failure to provide all required documents or information requested by USCIS will delay entitlement to an “interim card” and may re-start or stop the 90-day period.

### **File 100 Days Before Expiration of Current EAD**

Effective October 1, 2006, local USCIS offices will no longer produce interim EACs. USCIS will issue all approved interim EADs from a central facility. Accordingly, an applicant seeking to replace an expiring EAD should file Form I-765 at least 100 days before the current card expires. Doing so will minimize the possibility that the current EAD will expire before a decision is made on the new application.

### **Arrangements for Asylum Cases**

Individuals who have been granted asylum by the Executive Office for Immigration Review should continue to schedule and attend their InfoPass appointments for documentation in accordance with the Post Order Instructions provided to them at the conclusion of their immigration court proceedings. The local USCIS office will complete the individual’s processing for documentation of asylum status and will also initiate EAD card production from the central facility. Individuals granted asylum by a USCIS Asylum Office will, at the time they are granted asylum, receive information about the prompt delivery of a secure EAD.

– USCIS –

On March 1, 2003, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services became one of three legacy INS components to join the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. USCIS is charged with fundamentally transforming and improving the delivery of immigration and citizenship services, while enhancing our nation’s security.