Fisher Broyles

IMMIGRATION SENTINEL

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Jennifer Cory, Partner

March 2025 Visa Bulletin

The U.S. Department of State March 2025 Visa Bulletin reflects some priority date advancement from February in the employment-based final action dates for EB-2 All Chargeability, EB-2 and EB-3 China, and EB-3 India.

Foreign National Registration

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services ("USCIS") announced plans for the "Alien Registration Requirement" pursuant to INA §262 and Executive Order ("EO") 14159, "Protecting the American People Against Invasion," which include establishing a new form and process by which undocumented immigrants must register. The notice states that, with limited exceptions, it is the legal obligation of all unregistered noncitizens (or previously registered children who turn 14-years old) to comply with the registration requirements. Failure to comply will result in criminal and civil penalties, including misdemeanor prosecution and fines. The announcement includes details on who has already registered, who must apply for registration, and how to register, with a note that The U.S. Department of Homeland Security ("DHS") will "soon announced a form and process" for those required to complete the registration requirement.

Welcome to the March 2025 issue of our monthly newsletter, *The Immigration Sentinel*. As we monitor immigration benefits and compliance developments, we hope that this medium will be a valuable resource in helping you stay informed and prepared for potential changes that may impact you corporately and individually.

Jeffrey Widdison, Senior Counsel

Haiti TPS to End

DHS published a notice of a partial vacatur of the extension and redesignation of Temporary Protected Status ("TPS") for Haiti, shortening the designation period from 18 months to 12 months, with the new expiration date set for 8/3/2025. TPS beneficiaries who have received an employment authorization document ("EAD") bearing category code A12 or C19 and an expiration date of 2/3 2026, may only work until 8/3/2025. USCIS will not issue new EADs bearing the new expiration date. Employers that previously accepted, or are presented with, an EAD bearing category code A12 or C19 and designating Haiti with expiration date of 2/3/2026 must update their records to note the document is only valid through 8/3/2025. If a new hire or existing employee is attempting to extend their A12 or C19 EAD designating Haiti with proof of timely filing, the maximum extension period for the EAD is 8/3/2025, even if it is shorter than the 540-day automatic extension period.

Latin American & Ukrainian Migrant Applications on Hold

CBS news reported that an internal USCIS memo was distributed on 2/14/2025 that indicates the Trump Administration has enacted an indefinite pause on all immigration applications filed by or on behalf of migrants from Latin America and Ukraine paroled into the United States under the CHNV, U4U and Family Reunification parole programs. The pause affects applications such as asylum, TPS, adjustment or naturalization, petitions such as I-130, and benefits requests such as I-765. While cases may continue to be worked on by officers, the pause limits their abilities to finally adjudicate cases.

Visa Interview Waiver Requirements Changed

U.S. Department of State ("DOS") announced it has updated requirements for visa applicants to receive a waiver of the nonimmigrant visa interview. For most visa types, the interview can only be waived for applicants who: previously held a visa in the same category that expired less than 12 months prior to the new application; apply in their country of nationality or residence; have never been refused a visa (unless such refusal was overcome or waived); and have no apparent or potential ineligibility.

Foreign Service Reforms

President Trump issued EO 14211 that calls for, among other things, the reform of the Foreign Service in recruiting, performance, evaluation, and retention standards, and the programs of the Foreign Service Institute, "to ensure a workforce that is committed to faithful implementation of the President's foreign policy." In implementing the reforms, the order directs the Secretary of State to revise or replace the Foreign Affairs Manual ("FAM") and to direct subordinate agencies to remove, amend, or replace any handbooks, procedures, or guidance.

Passports No Longer Issued With X Markers

DOS's Bureau of Consular Affairs issued guidance explaining that, under President Trump's EO 14168, "Defending Women from Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government," it will no longer issue U.S. passports or Consular Reports of Birth Abroad ("CRBA") with an X marker. Instead, it will only issue passports with an M or F sex marker that match the customer's biological sex at birth.

Please contact us at CoryImmigrationTeam@FisherBroyles.com or 1.833.4FB.VISA with questions. We stand ready to support!

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