



March 30, 2006

Press Release

DHS Announces Publication of Notices in the Federal Register for 12-Month Extensions of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Nationals of Honduras and Nicaragua

Employment Authorization Documents Automatically Extended to January 5, 2007

WASHINGTON – The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) today announced the publication of Notices in the Federal Register designating a 12-month extension of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for nationals of Honduras and Nicaragua until July 5, 2007. Under this extension, those who have already been granted TPS are eligible to live and work in the United States for an additional 12 months and continue to maintain their status. DHS has also automatically extended the validity of Employment Authorization Documents (EADs) for eligible Hondurans and Nicaraguans for 6 months until January 5, 2007. This will allow sufficient time for eligible TPS beneficiaries to receive their extension sticker or an EAD without any lapse in employment. There are approximately 75,000 nationals of Honduras and 4,000 nationals of Nicaragua (or aliens having no nationality who last habitually resided in Honduras or Nicaragua respectively) who may be eligible for re-registration.

The extension of TPS for nationals of Honduras and Nicaragua is effective July 5, 2006, and will remain in effect until July 5, 2007. Nationals of Honduras and Nicaragua who have been granted TPS previously must re-register for the 12-month extension during the 60-day re-registration period, which begins April 1, 2006 and will remain in effect until June 1, 2006. To facilitate processing of their applications, applicants are strongly encouraged to file as soon as possible after the start of the 60-day re-registration period, (April 1, 2006). This re-registration period is for Honduras and Nicaragua only. Information about the El Salvador re-registration period will be forthcoming. Re-registration applications from nationals of El Salvador will not be accepted at this time.

To re-register for TPS under the extension, a TPS beneficiary must submit Form I-821 (Application for Temporary Protected Status) without the filing fee, Form I-765 (Application for Employment Authorization), and a \$70 biometrics services fee for each applicant age 14 and older. Both the Form I-765 and I-821 must be submitted for re-registration. If the applicant is only seeking to re-register for TPS and not seeking an extension of employment authorization, there is no filing fee for the Form I-765. However, all applicants seeking an extension of employment authorization until July 5, 2007 must submit a \$180 filing fee with Form I-765. Applicants may request a fee waiver in accordance with the regulations. The biometric

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fees, however, cannot be waived. The \$70 biometric service fee must be submitted by all re-registrants age 14 and older, as well as re-registrants under age 14 who are requesting an EAD. Failure to submit the required filing fees will result in the rejection of the re-registration application.

More information can be obtained from the USCIS National Customer Service Center toll-free number: 1-800-375-5283. TPS forms are available from the toll-free USCIS Forms line, 1-800-870-3676, or from the USCIS Web site: www.uscis.gov.

-USCIS-

On March 1, 2003, U.S Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) became one of three former Immigration and Naturalization Service (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 the integrity of our nation's security.