



July 29, 2005

Press Release

DHS Announces 12-Month Extension of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) For Somalia

WASHINGTON – The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) today announced a 12-month extension of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Somalia until September 17, 2006. Under this extension, those who have already been granted TPS are eligible to live and work in the United States for an additional year and continue to maintain their status.

Section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act authorizes the Secretary of Homeland Security to grant TPS to aliens in the United States who are nationals of countries that are subject to ongoing armed conflict, environmental disaster, or other extraordinary and temporary conditions. On September 16, 1991 and September 4, 2001, the Attorney General (who retained authority over TPS designations prior to the creation of the Department of Homeland Security on March 1, 2003) designated TPS for Somalia based on extraordinary and temporary conditions resulting from the armed conflict there. TPS for Somalia has been extended annually and the most recent extension expires on September 17, 2005. The U.S. Government has continued to examine conditions in Somalia and finds that an extension of TPS is warranted because the extraordinary and temporary conditions that prompted designation persist.

The extension of Somalia's designation for TPS is effective September 17, 2005, and will remain in effect until September 17, 2006. Nationals of Somalia (or those with no nationality who last habitually resided in Somalia) who have been granted TPS must re-register for the 12-month extension during the 60-day re-registration period, which begins on July 29, 2005 and will remain in effect until September 27, 2005. To ensure timely scheduling for biometric collection at a U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Application Support Center (ASC) and to prevent a lapse in employment authorization, Somali TPS beneficiaries are encouraged to file their application materials as quickly as possible.

Instructions for re-registering for TPS have changed. Individuals re-registering for TPS under the Somalia designation must follow the new filing instructions or processing of the application may be delayed. Re-registration applications must be mailed to the USCIS Lockbox addresses noted below. Applicants should not submit applications to USCIS District Offices as they have done in the past.

To re-register for TPS under this extension, all TPS re-registrants must submit Form I-821 (Application for Temporary Protected Status) without filing fee, Form I-765 (Application for Employment Authorization), and a \$70 biometric services fee for each applicant age 14 and older. An applicant under age 14 who requests an Employment Authorization Document (EAD) must also submit the \$70 biometric services fee. All applicants seeking a new EAD, valid through September 17, 2006, must submit a \$175 filing fee.

with Form I-765. An applicant who only seeks to re-register for TPS and does not seek an EAD need not submit the \$175 filing fee for the Form I-765. Applicants may request a fee waiver in accordance with the regulations; however, the biometric services fee will not be waived. Failure to properly complete and submit Forms I-821 and I-765 with all applicable fees will delay processing of the application or lead to the rejection of the re-registration application.

Unlike previous re-registration periods, applicants are not required to submit a photograph with their re-registration material, as both photographs and fingerprints will be collected at the ASC. Applicants will automatically receive an appointment at an ASC, and will be notified of the appointment by mail.

USCIS has published a revised Form I-821. **Only Form I-821 with Revision Date 11/5/04 will be accepted.** Earlier versions of this form will be rejected. The newly revised form, as well as other forms, are available on the USCIS web site at www.uscis.gov, at local USCIS offices, and via the USCIS Forms line, 1-800-870-3676.

The Form I-821, Form I-765, fees, and any required supporting documentation must be filed at the USCIS Chicago Lockbox at:

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
Attn: TPS Somalia
P.O. Box 87583
Chicago, IL 60680-0583

Or, for non-United States Postal Service deliveries:

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
Attn: TPS Somalia
427 S. LaSalle – 3rd Floor
Chicago, IL 60605

Please note that these addresses are not the same as where TPS forms were submitted during previous re-registration periods for Somalia.

More information can be obtained from the USCIS National Customer Service Center toll-free number: 1-800-375-5283.

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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.