

7. Fingerprints -- Fingerprints are valid for 15 months and the Employment Authorization Document (EAD) is valid for one year. The email noted that requiring the applicant to obtain fingerprints for the EAD renewal leads to processing delays for the EAD and places an unnecessary burden on the applicant who may have to take off work. Why does USCIS require the applicant to obtain new fingerprints before they expire?

CIS Ombudsman's 2008 Annual Report: "Your Questions and Comments" July 29, 2008

The following are questions from the teleconference we will post answers from USCIS when they are available.

1. Lack of Communication re Production of Green Card – A caller described a lack of communication with USCIS regarding receipt of the actual green card after approval of the green card application. Upon not receiving the card, the caller called USCIS. The call representative said to wait 30 days. The caller again called USCIS after not receiving the card and USCIS gave the same answer. At an Infopass appointment, the officer expedited the card. The caller waited another 30 days, called USCIS, and was told to wait another 45 days. The caller had not moved over this time. How can USCIS track whether a card has been mailed?

2. Premium Processing – One caller asked if USCIS is considering expansion of premium processing to other types of applications. Can you please provide information that supplements USCIS' June 16, 2008 press release on premium processing?

3. I-140 Processing – A caller asked if USCIS could publish on its website monthly or quarterly I-140 reports to increase transparency in processing.

4. Multi-year Employment Authorization Documents (EADs) – A caller expressed confusion as to why an I-140 must first be approved before a multi-year EAD can be issued. Please explain.

5. First In First Out (FIFO) Processing – A caller asked if USCIS is processing cases based on the received date or the system entry date? The caller observed that it appears that USCIS is not processing applications as they are received. Callers also indicated that their cases were past the posted processing times. Can USCIS please explain why that might be happening? Also, callers observed that some service centers were much slower than others. Please explain.

6. I-140 Stand Alone versus Concurrent Processing – Several callers observed that USCIS appears to be processing I-140 stand alone applications differently than those concurrently filed with an I-485. Many callers also mentioned that most of the issue appears to be with the Texas Service Center. Please explain.

7. EAD Renewals – A caller asked whether I-485 receipt notices are required for EAD renewals. USCIS indicated to the caller that a receipt notice is required, but the instructions do not require one. Please explain.

Another caller mentioned that the start date of EAD renewal cards should be the approved date of the new EAD card, or the expiration date of the old one. In April 2006, the Ombudsman recommended that USCIS issue an EAD valid as of the date an earlier EAD received by the applicant expired (Recommendation #25). The Ombudsman understands that USCIS was planning to assess the possibility of adjusting its system to allow production of EADs with the synchronized validity dates. Can USCIS provide a further update?

This page was last reviewed/modified on August 27, 2008.