

Highlights of the Spring 2026 Edition

This edition includes discussion of:

- The DOS' one-year Visa Bond Pilot Program, beginning August 5, 2025, for certain B-1/B-2 visa applicants
- Revised USCIS regulation stating that there is no minimum period that R-1 religious workers must remain outside the U.S. after reaching their maximum five-year admission period before seeking readmission in R-1 status
- The November 27, 2025, updated USCIS guidance regarding discretionary analysis for immigration benefits by nationals of certain countries
- The November 21, 2025, USCIS suspension of benefit processing for those admitted as refugees
- Presidential Proclamation Nos. 10949 and 10998 restricting the entry of nationals from certain countries to protect the security of the United States
- The January 21, 2026, DOS pause on immigrant visa issuance for nationals of 75 countries pending review to ensure that immigrants from these countries “do not utilize welfare in the United States or become a public charge”
- The October 29, 2025, USCIS announcement of interim rule whereby those who “file to renew their EAD on or after October 30, 2025, will no longer receive an automatic extension of their EAD”
- The August 15, 2025, USCIS policy memorandum stating that, in assessing the good moral character of naturalization applicants, “USCIS officers must account for an alien’s positive attributes and not simply the absence of misconduct”
- The September 17, 2025, USCIS announcement that, effective October 20, 2025, it has reverted to the 2020 history and civics exam questions
- Updates on the second Trump Administration’s efforts to terminate temporary protected status for nationals of various countries
- The December 2, 2025, USCIS policy memorandum placing a hold on all pending asylum applications “regardless of the alien’s country of nationality” and all other pending USCIS benefit requests “for aliens from countries listed in Presidential Proclamation 10949 and a comprehensive review of approved benefit requests from aliens from countries listed in PP 10949 who entered the United States on or after January 20, 2021”