

I-131A Package for Carrier Documentation

Overview for Filing Form I-131A

ORDER#

PREPARED FOR

PREPARED ON

Contact Us

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What Is the Purpose of Form I-131A?

Foreign nationals without a valid passport and required visa may face penalties under US laws, and carriers such as airlines or ships may be penalized for transporting them to the US. Lawful permanent residents or conditional permanent residents traveling overseas temporarily can use their valid Permanent Resident Card (Green Card) or Reentry Permit instead of a visa to prove eligibility to return to the US. If the Green Card or Reentry Permit is lost, stolen, destroyed, or damaged, they may encounter difficulties returning to the US.

In case you are not a lawful permanent resident or conditional permanent resident, but you have been issued a Form I-512/Form I-512L Advance Parole Document or Form I-766 Employment Authorization Document (EAD) with travel endorsement, and your document was lost, stolen, destroyed or damaged while you were traveling overseas temporarily, you may face problems when you try to board your carrier and return to the United States.

This application allows individuals in certain situations to apply for Carrier Documentation (Transportation Letter or Boarding Foil). If the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) determines that you are still a lawful permanent resident (LPR) or conditional LPR, or had previously received a valid Advance Parole Document on a Form I-512 or Form I-512L or travel endorsement on an Employment Authorization Document, DHS may, on a case-by-case basis, provide Carrier Documentation in the form of a foil placed in your passport or a boarding letter. The Carrier Documentation is typically valid for 30 days from the date of issuance and can be presented to a carrier destined for the United States.

NOTE: If your Advance Parole Document is a Boarding Foil issued by the Department of State and you are currently outside of the United States and your travel document containing that foil is lost, stolen, destroyed or damaged, you should report immediately to the Department of State Consular Office where the foil was issued. This application should not be used to replace a Boarding Foil.

- 1 Carrier Documentation does not guarantee entry into the United States, it only allows you to demonstrate to the commercial carrier that you are not required to provide a visa or comparable document at the time of entry. U.S. Customs and Border Protection will still conduct necessary inspection procedures upon your arrival at a U.S. Port-of-Entry.
- 2 DHS has the right to revoke or terminate your Carrier Documentation at any time, and this could affect your travel plans.

Replacing or Renewing Your Permanent Resident Card

If you lose your Advance Parole Document or Employment Authorization Document while traveling outside the United States and choose to replace it after you return, you must file Form I-131 and/or Form I-765 with USCIS. Even if you receive Carrier Documentation to facilitate travel back to the United States, it does not replace the need for obtaining a new Advance Parole Document or EAD with travel endorsement. For more information, visit the USCIS website at www.uscis.gov/I-765 and www.uscis.gov/I-131.

Who May File Form I-131A?

You may file Form I-131A to apply for Carrier Documentation if

- 1 You have been lawfully admitted to the United States as a LPR or conditional LPR;
- 2 You have not lost LPR or conditional LPR status by abandoning that status or by removal from the United States;
- 3 You have traveled abroad temporarily, and without any intent of abandoning your LPR or conditional LPR status;
- 4 You wish to return to the United States using a valid Permanent Resident Card after an absence of less than 1 year or using a valid Reentry Permit after an absence of less than 2 years; and
- 5 You are not in possession of a valid, unexpired Permanent Resident Card or Reentry Permit (for example, your card or permit was lost, stolen, destroyed, or damaged) or other document authorizing you to apply for admission to, or otherwise seek lawful entry into, the United States.

You also may file Form I-131A if:

- 1 You received Form I-512/Form I-512L, Advance Parole Document, or Form I-766, Employment Authorization Document (with travel endorsement);
- 2 The Form I-512/Form I-512L, Advance Parole Document, or Form I-766, Employment Authorization Document (with travel endorsement), has not been revoked;
- 3 You wish to return to the United States after a temporary absence before your Form I-512/Form I-512L, Advance Parole Document, or Form I-766, Employment Authorization Document (with travel endorsement), expires; and

- 4 You are not in possession of a valid, unexpired Form I-512/Form I-512L, Advance Parole Document, or Form I-766, Employment Authorization Document (with travel endorsement), because it was lost, stolen, destroyed or damaged

Who May File Form I-131A?

Who is NOT eligible to receive Carrier Documentation?

DHS has the discretion to decide on a case-by-case basis whether to grant Carrier Documentation. DHS may deny your request for Carrier Documentation for various reasons, including:

- 1 You are currently present in the United States;
- 2 You are no longer a valid LPR or conditional LPR of the United States;
- 3 You have valid Carrier Documentation, unless it was lost, stolen, destroyed, or returned to DHS;
- 4 Your Form I-512/Form I-512L, Advance Parole Document, or Form I-766, Employment Authorization Document (with travel endorsement) will expire, has expired, or is revoked before your return to the United States

Please note that Form I-131A is not used to apply for or replace Humanitarian Parole. Refer to the instructions for Form I-131 if you need to apply for Humanitarian Parole. Regenerate response

- 5 If your Advance Parole Document is a Boarding Foil issued by the Department of State and you are outside the United States, and your travel document containing that foil was lost, stolen, destroyed, or damaged, you should report immediately to the Department of State Consular Office where that foil was issued, instead of applying for or using Form I-131A for Carrier Documentation.

Expired Permanent Resident Card

If your Permanent Resident Card or Conditional Permanent Resident Card has expired and you have a valid Form I-797 showing that you timely filed Form I-751 or I-829 to remove conditions, you can use these documents to board a carrier to the United States. In this case, you do not need to file Form I-131A. However, it is important to confirm with your carrier if they will accept these documents before your travel. If your carrier does not accept these documents, then you should file Form I-131A.

Returning Resident Visa

Instead of filing Form I-131A, you may be able to obtain a returning resident (SB-1) visa as proof of your LPR or conditional LPR status. You can contact the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate, or visit its website, for information on how to apply for a returning resident (SB-1) immigrant visa. If you are issued an SB-1 visa, you will not need to file Form I-131A.

General Instructions

To access and complete our forms, visit the USCIS website. You will need to use the latest version of Adobe Reader,

which can be downloaded for free at <http://get.adobe.com/reader/>. If you are unable to access the internet, you can request a form by calling the USCIS Contact Center at 1-800-375-5283. The USCIS Contact Center provides assistance in English and Spanish, and for TTY (deaf or hard of hearing) call 1-800-767-1833. Visit www.uscis.gov/I-131A or www.travel.state.gov for current information on where to file this application and for details on contacting the Visa or Consular Section at the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate.

Signature. To ensure that an application is valid, it must be properly signed and filed. USCIS does not accept stamped or typewritten names as signatures on an application, and a legal guardian may sign on behalf of a mentally incompetent person. If the application is not signed, or if the signature is not valid, USCIS will reject the application. The regulations governing signature requirements for USCIS applications can be found in 8 CFR 103.2(a)(7)(ii)(A). If an application is accepted for adjudication, but the signature is deficient, USCIS will deny the application.

Validity of Signatures. A photocopied, faxed, or scanned copy of the original handwritten signature will be considered valid for filing purposes by USCIS. However, it must be a copy of the original document that includes the ink signature.

Filing Fee. When submitting your application, it is mandatory to include the correct filing fee. Please refer to the "What Is the Filing Fee" section of these instructions to determine the appropriate amount.

Evidence. When submitting your application, you are required to provide all evidence and supporting documents mentioned in the "What Evidence Should You Submit" section of these instructions..

Biometric Services Appointment. USCIS may require that you appear for an interview or provide biometrics (fingerprints, photograph, and/or signature) at any time to verify your identity, obtain additional information, and conduct background and security checks, including a check of criminal history records maintained by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), before making a decision on your application or petition. After USCIS receives your application and ensures it is complete, we will inform you if you need to attend a biometric services appointment. If an appointment is necessary, the notice will provide you the location of your local or designated USCIS Application Support Center (ASC) and the date and time of your appointment or, if you are currently overseas, instruct you to contact a U.S. Embassy, U.S. Consulate, or USCIS office outside the United States to set up an appointment.

If you are required to provide biometrics, at your appointment you must sign an oath reaffirming that:

- 1 You provided or authorized all information in the application;
- 2 You reviewed and understood all of the information contained in, and submitted with, your application; and
- 3 All of this information was complete, true, and correct at the time of filing.

Copies. You should provide clear photocopies of the documents requested, unless the instructions explicitly state that an original document is required. USCIS reserves the right to request an original document at any time during the application or petition processing. If an original document is requested, USCIS will return it to you when it is no longer needed.

Note that if you provide original documents when USCIS has not requested or required them, your original documents may be destroyed by USCIS.

Translations. If you provide USCIS with a document containing information in a language other than English, you must also include a complete and accurate English translation of the document. The translator must sign a certification affirming their competence to translate from the foreign language into English, as well as the completeness and accuracy of the translation. The certification must include the translators signature, printed name, signature date, and contact information.

How to Complete Form I-131A

- 1 Please use black ink and print legibly or type.
- 2 If you require additional space to complete any item within this application, utilize the space provided in Part 7 or attach a separate sheet of paper. On each sheet, write your name and Alien Registration Number (if applicable) at the top, specify the Page Number, Part Number, and Item Number to which your response pertains, and sign and date each sheet.
- 3 Provide full and accurate answers to all questions. If a question does not apply to you (such as being asked for the name of a current spouse when you have never been married), write "N/A," unless instructed otherwise. If a question requires a numeric response and your answer is zero or none (for example, "How many children do you have?" or "How many times have you departed the United States?"), write "None," unless instructed otherwise.
- 4 Part 4 of the application requires you to provide your contact information, certify that you have read the application yourself or had an interpreter assist you, and sign and date the application. If you used a preparer to assist you in completing the application, you must select the appropriate box indicating that you used a preparer. Make sure to provide your daytime telephone number, mobile telephone number (if any), and email address (if any). It is important that you sign the application yourself, as a stamped or typewritten name will not be accepted.
- 5 Part 5 of the application is for interpreters who assisted you in reading the instructions and questions in a language in which you are fluent. The interpreter must provide their name, the name and address of their business or organization (if any), their daytime telephone number, mobile telephone number (if any), and email address (if any). The interpreter must also sign and date the application.
- 6 Part 6 of the application requires the signature of the person who completed the application if someone other than the applicant did so. If the same person acted as both the interpreter and the preparer, he or she should complete both Part 5 and Part 6. If the person who completed the application is associated with a business or organization, he or she should complete the name and address information for that entity. It is important to note that anyone who assisted in completing the application must sign and date it, and a stamped or typewritten name is not acceptable. If the preparer is an attorney or accredited representative, he or she may also need to submit a completed Form G-28 or Form G-28I, depending on the nature of the case.
- 7 Additional Information: this section allows for extra space to be used in case more information needs to be provided. If the space provided is not sufficient, copies of Section 7 may be made and filed along with the application, or an additional sheet of paper may be attached. Each additional sheet should include the name and A-Number (if applicable) at the top, as well as the Page Number, Part Number, and Item Number that the answer corresponds to. Each sheet should be signed and dated. We advise saving or printing a copy of the completed application for your own records.

We suggest that you keep a copy of your completed application for your records by either printing it out or saving an electronic copy.

What Evidence Should You Submit?

It is crucial to provide all the evidence and supporting documents listed in these instructions along with your application. If you do not include the necessary evidence, your application may be rejected or denied under 8 CFR 103.2(b)(1) and these instructions for failure to submit requested evidence or supporting documents.

Your application must include:

To complete your application, you must provide a copy of all pages of your original passport, including the biographic page. Additionally, if you are a lawful permanent resident (LPR), you must provide evidence of your LPR or conditional LPR status (if available), such as a copy of your Permanent Resident Card (Form I-551), your immigrant visa, or the CBP admission stamp in your passport. If you are not an LPR but have an Advance Parole Document, you must provide evidence of your Advance Parole Document, such as a copy of your Form I-512/Form I-512L Advance Parole Document or a copy of your Employment Authorization Document with travel endorsement. Failure to submit any required evidence may result in the rejection or denial of your application.

You must include a copy of your tickets, itinerary, or any other evidence that shows your most recent departure from the United States and your intended return travel dates to the United States. This evidence may include e-tickets, boarding passes, or other relevant documents.

In addition, you must also include one recent color passport-style photograph of yourself. The photo must be printed on thin paper with a glossy finish, and must not be mounted or retouched. The dimensions of the photo must be 2 by 2 inches, with a full face, frontal view against a white to off-white background. Your head height should measure between 1 to 1 3/8 inches from the top of your hair to the bottom of your chin, and your eye height should measure between 1 1/8 to 1 3/8 inches from the top of your eyes to the bottom of the photo. Unless required by your religious denomination, you must not wear any headwear in the photo. Finally, you should lightly print your name and A-Number (if any) on the back of the photo using a pencil or felt pen.

What Is the Filing Fee?

To apply for Form I-131A, you need to pay a filing fee of \$575 which can be paid online through the USCIS website at www.uscis.gov. You can make the payment using a credit card, debit card, or a U.S. bank account.

It is important to note that Form I-131A is distinct from Form I-131, which is the Application for Travel Document. If you are filing for Form I-131, you cannot pay the fee online.

Please be aware that the filing fee for Form I-131A is non-refundable, regardless of the outcome of your application.

How To Check If the Fees Are Correct

While the fee listed for the Form I-131A on the lower left corner of this page is \$575 and accurate as of the edition date, it is important to note that USCIS fees may change from time to time. Therefore, to ensure that you have the most current and accurate fee information, you should visit the USCIS website at www.uscis.gov, select "FORMS," and confirm the applicable fee.

Where to File?

To file Form I-131A, you can either visit the nearest U.S. Embassy or U.S. Consulate, or visit its website to obtain the necessary instructions.

Prior to visiting the Embassy or Consulate to file your application, you need to submit your filing fee through the USCIS online filing system on the USCIS website. You can find details on the fee payment process in the "What Is the Filing Fee" section mentioned above. It's important to bring evidence of payment with you when you appear in person at the Embassy or Consulate to file Form I-131A. For further guidance on filing your application, please get in touch with the nearest U.S. Embassy or U.S. Consulate.

Address Change

If you are a non-U.S. citizen applicant, it's important to notify USCIS of your new address within 10 days of moving from your previous residence. To file a change of address, you can visit the USCIS website at www.uscis.gov/addresschange, or you can seek assistance from the USCIS Contact Center at www.uscis.gov/contactcenter. The USCIS Contact Center offers support in both English and Spanish, and for those who are deaf or hard of hearing, you can call 1-800-767-1833 using TTY.

NOTE: Do not submit a change of address request to the USCIS Lockbox facilities because the Lockbox does not process change of address requests.

Processing Information

Please be aware that any Form I-131A that is not signed or does not have proof of payment of the filing fee online will be rejected. In such cases, you may correct the deficiency and resubmit Form I-131A. It's important to note that we only consider your Form I-131A as properly filed once it has been accepted by a U.S. Embassy or U.S. Consulate.

Upon receiving your application, we will initially process it and check for completeness. If your application is incomplete, we may reject or deny it.

In some cases, we may request that you provide more information or evidence to support your application. Additionally, if you submit copies of documents, we may ask you to provide the originals. If we request an original document from you, we will return it to you when we have completed the processing of your application.

We reserve the right to request that you appear for an interview at a U.S. Embassy or U.S. Consulate based on your application. During the interview or any other appearance at the Embassy or Consulate, we may require you to provide your biometrics to verify your identity and/or update background and security checks.

Once we have made a decision on your Form I-131A, the U.S. Embassy or U.S. Consulate where you filed will inform you of the decision. We will contact you using the information you provided on the form. Please note that the decision on your Form I-131A is at our discretion, and you cannot appeal it.

USCIS Forms and Information

To make sure that you are using the latest version of Form I-131A, we recommend that you visit the USCIS website at www.uscis.gov. Here, you can access the most up-to-date USCIS forms and find information related to immigration. You can also visit www.uscis.gov/I-131A or contact the nearest U.S. Embassy or U.S. Consulate to obtain the latest information on where to file this application.

If you prefer to obtain information in person, you can visit www.uscis.gov/about-us/find-uscis-office/international-immigration-offices for contact information of the USCIS office in your country. If there is no USCIS office in your country, please visit the website of the U.S. Embassy or U.S. Consulate in your area to find the appropriate contact and appointment information.

For basic information about immigration services and questions related to a pending case, please visit www.uscis.gov/contactcenter. The USCIS Contact Center offers digital self-help tools and live assistance to provide you with accurate information and answers to your immigration case question.

Penalties

It's important to note that if you intentionally falsify or hide a significant fact or submit a fake document with your Form I-131A, we will deny your application. Moreover, we may also refuse any other immigration benefit you may have applied for. Please be aware that such actions constitute a serious violation of the law and may result in severe legal penalties. Additionally, you may be subject to criminal prosecution. Therefore, it's crucial that you provide accurate and truthful information when filing your application.

DHS Privacy Notice

AUTHORITIES: The collection of the information and associated evidence requested on this application is authorized under the Immigration and Nationality Act sections 1103, 1158, 1182, 1203, and 1204.

PURPOSE: The main reason for providing the requested information on this application is to apply for Carrier Documentation with either USCIS or the Department of State within one year of your departure from the United States. This document will enable you to board a vessel or aircraft, travel to the United States, and present yourself at a U.S. port-of-entry for inspection as a returning lawful permanent resident. The information you provide will be used by DHS to determine your eligibility for the requested travel document.

DISCLOSURE: The information you provide is voluntary. However, please note that failing to provide the requested information, including your Social Security number (if applicable), and any requested evidence, may result in a delay in the final decision or lead to denial of your application.

ROUTINE USES: The information you provide on this application and any additional requested evidence may be shared by DHS with other Federal, state, local, and foreign government agencies, as well as authorized organizations. DHS will follow the approved routine uses described in the associated published system of records notices [DHS/USCIS/ICE/CBP-001 - Alien File, Index, and National File Tracking System of Records, DHS/USCIS-007 - Benefits Information System, DHS/USCIS-018 Immigration Biometric and Background Check, and STATE-39 Visa Records] and the published privacy impact assessments [DHS/USCIS/PIA-016(a) Computer Linked Application Information Management System and Associated Systems, DHS/USCIS/PIA-051 Case and Activity Management for International Operations, and DOS Nonimmigrant Visa System], which can be found at www.dhs.gov/privacy or www.state.gov/privacy. Additionally, DHS may share this information, if appropriate, for law enforcement purposes or to safeguard national security interests.

Paperwork Reduction Act

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act, an agency cannot conduct or sponsor an information collection, and individuals are not required to respond to a collection of information, unless it displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number. The estimated public reporting burden for completing this information collection is 55 minutes per response, which includes time for reviewing instructions, gathering the required documentation and information, completing the application, attaching necessary documentation, and submitting the application. If you have any comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, please send them to: U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Regulatory Coordination Division, Office of Policy and Strategy, 20 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC 20529-2140, referencing OMB No. 1615-0135. Please do not mail your completed Form I-131A to this address.