



USCIS Issues Redesigned Authorization Cards And Automatic Extensions For Certain Work Permits

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In May 2017, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) began issuing newly redesigned Employment Authorization Document Cards (EADs), and Permanent Resident Cards, also known as “Green Cards”. According to the USCIS, these new cards use enhanced graphics and fraud-resistant security features, making them highly secure and more tamper-resistant than previously issued cards. The new cards will have the following features: 1) the individual’s photos will appear on both sides; 2) unique graphic images and color palettes (Green Cards will have an image of the Statue of Liberty and a predominately green palette and EADs will have an image of a bald eagle and predominately red palette); 3) embedded holographic images; and 4) the individual’s signature will no longer be displayed. Some Green Cards and EADs issued after May 1, 2017 may still display the previous design format, since USCIS will continue to use the existing card stock until the stock is depleted. Additionally, the USCIS announced earlier this year that it would automatically extend certain expiring EADs for up to 180 days while an EAD renewal application is pending. EADs are temporary work authorization cards which are typically only valid for 1-2 years. This automatic extension only applies to applicants who properly file for a renewal EAD before the current EAD expires and are applying under a category that is eligible for the automatic extension, as listed on the USCIS website page for EAD applications.

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