

**PUBLICATION UPDATE**

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# Bender's Immigration Regulations Service

Publication 695

Release 193

December 2008

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## HIGHLIGHTS

### RECENT CHANGES

- This release includes changes to the regulations published in the Federal Register through December 8, 2008.

### VOLUME 1 (8 CFR—DHS & DOJ REGULATIONS)

#### **Additional Countries Designated for the Visa Waiver Program (DHS Final Rule; Technical Amendment; 73 FR 67711, Nov. 17, 2008)**

- This technical amendment revised the definition of “designated country” in 8 CFR § 274a.1 by adding the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, the Republic of Korea, and the Slovak Republic to the list of countries authorized to participate in the Visa Waiver Program.

#### **Advance Information on Private Aircraft Arriving and Departing the United States (DHS—CBP Final Rule, 73 FR 68295, Nov. 18, 2008)**

- The substantive focus of this final

rule was on revisions to 19 CFR (Customs Duties), Part 122 (Air Commerce Regulations). This required a conforming revision of 8 CFR 213.3 (Exemptions for private vessels), which is reflected in this release. The final rule requires, among other things, that private aircraft pilots or their designees arriving in the United States from a foreign port or location destined for a U.S. port or location, or departing the United States to a foreign port or location, to transmit electronically to CBP passenger manifest information for each individual traveling onboard the aircraft. The effective date of the rule is December 18, 2008, with the following provision regarding compliance date: “Private aircraft pilots (or their designees) must comply with the requirements of this final rule on May 18, 2009.”

#### **Special Immigrant and Nonimmigrant Religious Workers (DHS-USCIS Final Rule, 73 FR 72276, Nov. 26, 2008)**

- This final rule amended 8 CFR Parts 204, 214, and 299 to improve the ability of DHS-USCIS to detect and deter fraud and other

abuses in the religious worker program. It also implements the Special Immigrant Nonminister Religious Worker Program Act which requires DHS to issue this final rule to eliminate or reduce fraud in regard to the granting of special nonimmigrant status to nonminister religious workers.

- The final rule made the following changes:
- ———§ 204.5 (Petitions for employment-based immigrants) was amended by completely revising subsec. (m), Religious Workers;
- ———§ 214.2 (Special requirements for admission, extension, and maintenance of status) was amended by completely revising subsec. (r), Religious Workers;
- ———§§ 299.1 & 299.5 (forms tables) were amended at the entries in each table for Form I-129 and Form I-360.

**VOLUME 2 (DOS, DOL, DOJ, & DHHS Regulations)**

**There were no regulatory changes affecting regulations in Volume 2 during the period covered by Release 193.**

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Publication 695 Release 193

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**VOLUME 1**

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