

**PUBLICATION UPDATE**

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# Bender's Immigration Regulations Service

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Publication 695      Release 228

April 2015

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## HIGHLIGHTS

### Regulatory Changes

- Regulatory Changes Release 228 includes regulatory changes published in the Federal Register through March 4, 2015. See below for information concerning changes that are included in the Release.

### 8 CFR (Volume 1)

**8 CFR Part 103, Notices of Decisions and Documents Evidencing Lawful Status.** DHS-CIS final rule published at 79 FR 64299, October 29, 2014, substantially revised 8 CFR § 103.2, Submission and adjudication of benefit requests, at paragraph (19)(b) [Notification]. As noted in the preamble to the final rule, this regulation governs when USCIS will issue correspondence, notices of decisions, and documents evidencing lawful status in the United States to an applicant, petitioner, attorney, or accredited representative. The final rule also amends the regulations to allow repre-

sented applicants to specifically consent to and request that any notices, decisions, and secure identity documents be sent solely to the official business address of the applicant's attorney or accredited representative, as reflected on a properly executed Notice of Entry of Appearance as Attorney or Accredited Representative. Further, through this final rule, DHS clarifies USCIS notification practices relating to represented parties. These changes will conform USCIS notice procedures to account for the full range of stakeholder norms, including industry preferences, in response to stakeholder comments.

**Employment Authorization for Certain H-4 Dependent Spouses.** Final rule published by DHS-USCIS at 80 FR 10284, February 25, 2015, amends 8 CFR § 214.2(h)(9)(iv), adds 8 CFR § 274a.12(c)(26), and amends 8 CFR § 274a.13(d), in relation to extending eligibility for employment authorization to certain H-4 dependent spouses of H-1B non-immigrants who are seeking employment-

based lawful permanent resident (LPR) status. The amendments are effective May 26, 2015.

**Extension of Employment Authorization for Syrian F-1 Nonimmigrant Students Experiencing Severe Economic Hardship as a Direct Result of Civil Unrest in Syria Since March 2011.** The editorial footnote at 8 CFR § 214.2(f)(9)(ii)(A) has been updated with an entry reflecting extension of the suspension of employment limitations for 18 months from March 31, 2015 until September 30, 2016. The DHS notice of the extension was published at 80 FR 232, Jan. 5, 2015.

## **DOS Regulations (Volume 2)**

**22 CFR Part 62, Exchange Visitor Program—General Provisions.** DOS final rule published at 79 FR 60294, October 6, 2014, effective January 5, 2015, completely revised 22 CFR §§ 62.1 to 62.16. The DOS's regulatory action also removed and reserved Subpart F, consisting of §§ 62.70 through 62.79, and also removed and reserved Appendices A, B, C and D to Part 62.

**22 CFR Part 22, Schedule of Fees for Consular Services, Department of State**

**and Overseas Embassies and Consulates.** DOS final rule published at 79 FR 79064, December 31, 2014, amended the schedule of fees under 22 CFR § 22.1 at Item 21(f) [Border crossing card—under age 15; for Mexican citizens if parent or guardian has or is applying for a border crossing card]. The fee is set at \$17 effective January 1, 2015, changing to \$16 effective October 4, 2015.

**22 CFR Part 96, Adoptions: Regulatory Change To Clarify the Application of the Accreditation Requirement and Standards in Cases Covered by the Inter-country Adoption Universal Accreditation Act.** DOS final rule published at 80 FR 7321, February 10, 2015, made a technical correction to the text at 22 CFR 96.14(a)

## **DHHS (Volume 2)**

**Annual Update of the HHS Poverty Guidelines.** The Annual Update of the HHS Poverty Guidelines for 2015 was published by DHHS at 80 FR 3236, January 22, 2015, and is added to the collection of annual updates at the end of the material behind the DOHHS Regulations tab in Volume 2.

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Publication 695 Release 228

April 2015

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