



March 4, 2014

PA-2014-003

Policy Alert

SUBJECT: Consolidated Guidance for Refugee and Asylee-Based Adjustment of Status under Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) Section 209

Purpose

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is issuing policy guidance in the USCIS Policy Manual to address adjustment of status applications filed by refugees and asylees under INA sections 209(a) and 209(b).

Background

Previously, USCIS provided field guidance through several memoranda related to refugee and asylee adjustment of status. The new guidance contained in [Volume 7 of the Policy Manual](#) consolidates Adjudicator's Field Manual (AFM) Chapter 23.6 and USCIS policy memoranda related to INA section 209, as well as updates and further expands the guidance. The guidance contained in the Policy Manual supersedes AFM Chapter 23.6 and all related policy memoranda.

Policy Highlights

- Provides guidance on the background, purpose, and legal authority of the refugee and asylee adjustment provisions.
- Clarifies the eligibility requirements for refugee and asylee adjustment.
- Provides guidance on the relevant grounds of inadmissibility and waiver requirements.
- Provides guidance on documentation and required evidence, adjudication procedures, termination of status considerations, and precedent decisions.

Citation

[USCIS Policy Manual, Volume 7: Adjustment of Status, Part L, Refugee Adjustment](#) and [Part M, Asylee Adjustment](#).