



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

JUN 05 2012

MEMORANDUM FOR: Directors, Field Operations
Office of Field Operations

FROM: [REDACTED] (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Director, Preclearance Operations
Executive Director [REDACTED] (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Admissibility and Passenger Programs
Office of Field Operations

SUBJECT: Immigrant Visa Packages and the Form I-601, Application for
Waiver of Grounds of Inadmissibility

Recently, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS) informed U.S. Customs and Border Protection that beginning on June 4, 2012 they will begin to centralize the filing of overseas Form I-601s, *Application for Waiver of Grounds of Inadmissibility*, at a domestic USCIS Lockbox facility that will forward them to the Nebraska Service Center (NSC) for adjudication.

Immigrant visa applications are adjudicated by the U.S. Department of State (DOS) and USCIS relies on DOS to determine whether an individual is eligible for the requested visa. For an individual who intends to immigrate from outside of the United States they may request a waiver of inadmissibility on Form I-601 only after:

- Applying for an immigrant visa or nonimmigrant K or V visa;
- After being interviewed by a DOS consular officer to determine eligibility for the visa; and
- A DOS consular officer has determined that the individual is eligible for the visa except for a finding of inadmissibility, which may be waived.

After these waivers have been adjudicated by USCIS, consular officers will be notified of waiver decisions electronically rather than with a written Form I-607, *Order Re Waiver of Excludability Pursuant to Section 212 (h), (i), and Permission to Reapply*.

For CBP, as a result of this change in filing procedures, the immigrant visa packets will no longer contain the original, approved Form I-607. (b) (7)(E)

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When the NSC approves an I-601 or I-212, they will retain the original application at the Texas Service Center (TSC) until the individual immigrates. Once the TSC receives the immigrant visa

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package from the port of entry, they will consolidate the approved waiver and visa package into an A-file for long-term storage at the National Records Center.

Please ensure that this memorandum and attachment is disseminated to all ports of entry within your jurisdiction.

If you have any questions, please contact (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) Director, Enforcement Programs, Admissibility and Passenger Programs at (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Attachment

Weekly Muster

Topic: Immigrant Visa Packages and the Form I-601, Application for Waiver of Grounds of Inadmissibility

HQ POC: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Office: Admissibility and Passenger Programs

- On June 4, 2012, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS) will begin to centralize the filing of overseas Form I-601s, *Application for Waiver of Grounds of Inadmissibility*, at a domestic USCIS Lockbox facility that will forward them to the Nebraska Service Center (NSC) for adjudication.
- Once these waivers have been adjudicated by USCIS, consular officers will be notified of waiver decisions electronically rather than with a written Form I-607, *Order Re Waiver of Excludability Pursuant to Section 212 (h), (i), and Permission to Reapply*.
- As a result of this change in filing procedures, the immigrant visa packets will no longer contain the original, approved Form I-607.
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- When the NSC approves an I-601 or I-212, they will retain the original application at the Texas Service Center (TSC) until the individual immigrates. Once the TSC receives the immigrant visa packet from the port of entry, they will consolidate the approved waiver and visa packet into an A-file for long-term storage at the National Records Center.