



U.S. Department of Justice

Immigration and Naturalization Service

DZ

Public Copy

OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS  
425 Eye Street N.W.  
ULLB, 3rd Floor  
Washington, D.C. 20536



File: SRC-98-268-51791 Office: Texas Service Center

Date: OCT 25 2001

IN RE: Petitioner:  
Beneficiary:



Petition: Petition for a Nonimmigrant Worker Pursuant to Section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b)

IN BEHALF OF PETITIONER:



Identifying data deleted to  
prevent clearly unwarranted  
invasion of personal privacy

INSTRUCTIONS:

This is the decision in your case. All documents have been returned to the office which originally decided your case. Any further inquiry must be made to that office.

FOR THE ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER,  
EXAMINATIONS

Robert P. Wiemann, Acting Director  
Administrative Appeals Office

**DISCUSSION:** The nonimmigrant visa petition was denied by the director and is now before the Associate Commissioner for Examinations on appeal. The director's decision will be withdrawn and the matter will be remanded to him for consideration of the appeal as a motion.

The petitioner is an engineering and material testing consultancy business with 12 employees and a gross annual income of \$700,000. It seeks to employ the beneficiary as a programmer for engineering and scientific applications for a period of three years. The director determined the petitioner had not established that the beneficiary qualifies to perform services in a specialty occupation.

On appeal, counsel submits a brief.

Section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), 8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b), provides in part for nonimmigrant classification to qualified aliens who are coming temporarily to the United States to perform services in a specialty occupation. Section 214(i)(1) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. 1184(i)(1), defines a "specialty occupation" as an occupation that requires theoretical and practical application of a body of highly specialized knowledge, and attainment of a bachelor's or higher degree in the specific specialty (or its equivalent) as a minimum for entry into the occupation in the United States.

8 C.F.R. 103.3(a)(2)(i) states:

*Filing appeal.* The affected party shall file an appeal on Form I-290B. Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, the affected party must pay the fee required by section 103.7 of this part. The affected party shall file the complete appeal including any supporting brief with the office where the unfavorable decision was made within 30 days after service of the decision.

8 C.F.R. 103.3(a)(2)(v)(B) states:

*Untimely appeal--(1) Rejection without refund of filing fee.* An appeal which is not filed within the time allowed must be rejected as improperly filed. In such a case, any filing fee the Service has accepted will not be refunded.

*(2) Untimely appeal treated as motion.* If an untimely appeal meets the requirements of a motion to reopen as described in section 103.5(a)(2) of this part or a motion to reconsider as described in section 103.5(a)(3) of this

part, the appeal must be treated as a motion, and a decision must be made on the merits of the case.

The record indicates that the petition was denied on May 6, 1999. The record further indicates that the appeal was filed on June 14, 1999, 39 days after service of the decision. Therefore, the appeal has not been properly filed, and the matter will be remanded to the director for consideration of the appeal as a motion.

**ORDER:** The decision of the director is withdrawn. The matter is remanded to him for further action and consideration consistent with the above discussion and entry of a new decision which, if adverse to the petitioner, is to be certified to the Associate Commissioner for review.