

**PUBLIC COPY**

U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services

**Identifying data deleted to  
prevent unauthorized  
invasion of personal privacy**

ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS OFFICE  
425 Eye Street N.W.  
BCIS, AAO, 20 Mass, 3/F  
Washington, D. C. 20536

File: WAC-01-091-53980 Office: CALIFORNIA SERVICE CENTER

Date: **MAY 19 2003**

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)

ON BEHALF OF PETITIONER:

INSTRUCTIONS:

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

If you believe the law was inappropriately applied or the analysis used in reaching the decision was inconsistent with the information provided or with precedent decisions, you may file a motion to reconsider. Such a motion must state the reasons for reconsideration and be supported by any pertinent precedent decisions. Any motion to reconsider must be filed within 30 days of the decision that the motion seeks to reconsider, as required under 8 C.F.R. § 103.5(a)(1)(i).

If you have new or additional information that you wish to have considered, you may file a motion to reopen. Such a motion must state the new facts to be proved at the reopened proceeding and be supported by affidavits or other documentary evidence. Any motion to reopen must be filed within 30 days of the decision that the motion seeks to reopen, except that failure to file before this period expires may be excused in the discretion of the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (Bureau) where it is demonstrated that the delay was reasonable and beyond the control of the applicant or petitioner. *Id.*

Any motion must be filed with the office that originally decided your case along with a fee of \$110 as required under 8 C.F.R. § 103.7.

Robert P. Wiemann, Director  
Administrative Appeals Office

**DISCUSSION:** The nonimmigrant visa petition was denied by the director and is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal. The appeal will be dismissed.

The petitioner imports and exports health food. It has five employees and a gross annual income of \$309,326. It seeks to employ the beneficiary as a technical writer for a period of three years. The director determined the petitioner had not established that the proffered position is a specialty occupation.

On appeal, the petitioner 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.

Pursuant to section 214(i)(2) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1184(i)(2), to qualify as an alien coming to perform services in a specialty occupation the beneficiary must hold full state licensure to practice in the occupation, if such licensure is required to practice in the occupation. In addition, the beneficiary must have completed the degree required for the occupation, or have experience in the specialty equivalent to the completion of such degree and recognition of expertise in the specialty through progressively responsible positions relating to the specialty.

The director denied the petition because the petitioner had not established that a baccalaureate degree is required for the proffered position. On appeal, the petitioner states, in part, that the proposed duties, which include writing pieces using technical knowledge and proper terminology, require a baccalaureate degree with a major in communications, journalism, or English. He further states that similar organizations have the same degree requirement and submits copies of approval notices issued by the Bureau.

The petitioner's statement on appeal is not persuasive. The Bureau does not use a title, by itself, when determining whether a particular job qualifies as a specialty occupation. The

specific duties of the offered position combined with the nature of the petitioning entity's business operations are factors that the Bureau considers. In the initial I-129 petition, the petitioner described the duties of the offered position as follows:

- (1) Organize materials and complete writing assignments according to set standards regarding order, clarity, style and terminology.
- (2) Develop writing and editing materials for reports, manuals, briefs, proposals, product descriptions, catalogs, and related technical and administrative publications concerned with work methods and procedures, instructions, usage, and storage of various products.
- (3) Revise current insufficient brochures, catalogs and products [sic] descriptions, etc., with proper terminology in [a] bilingual format (Chinese and English). Provide clear information in [a] simple and easily understood manner.
- (4) Assist in the construction of the Internet web site. Cooperate with web page composer to create a web site containing accurate and clear information on our products and service.

Pursuant to 8 C.F.R. § 214.2(h)(4)(iii)(A), to qualify as a specialty occupation, the position must meet one of the following criteria:

1. A baccalaureate or higher degree or its equivalent is normally the minimum requirement for entry into the particular position;
2. The degree requirement is common to the industry in parallel positions among similar organizations or, in the alternative, an employer may show that its particular position is so complex or unique that it can be performed only by an individual with a degree;
3. The employer normally requires a degree or its equivalent for the position; or
4. The nature of the specific duties is so specialized and complex that knowledge required to perform the duties is usually associated with the attainment of a baccalaureate or higher degree.

The petitioner has not met any of the above requirements to classify the offered position as a specialty occupation.

First, the Bureau does not agree with the petitioner's assertion that the proffered position would normally require a bachelor's degree in communications, journalism, or English. The petitioner describes the proffered position as that of a technical writer. A review of the Department of Labor's (DOL) *Occupational Outlook Handbook*, (*Handbook*), 2002-2003 edition, at page 147, finds no requirement of a baccalaureate or higher degree in a specific specialty for employment as a writer. Most employers prefer a degree in English, communications, or journalism while others look for a broad liberal arts background. (Emphasis added.) The petitioner asserts that the proposed duties require extensive knowledge in liberal arts, which can only be obtained through a baccalaureate degree in communications, journalism, or English. A review of the petitioner's brochures, however, does not persuasively demonstrate that the proposed duties are so complex as to require a baccalaureate degree in a specific specialty, as distinguished from a baccalaureate degree in any field or familiarity with the Chinese and English languages or a less extensive education. Thus, the petitioner has not shown that a bachelor's degree or its equivalent is required for the position being offered to the beneficiary.

Second, the petitioner has not shown that it has, in the past, required the services of individuals with baccalaureate or higher degrees in a specific specialty such as communications, journalism, or English for the offered position. Third, the petitioner did not present any documentary evidence that a baccalaureate degree in a specific specialty or its equivalent is common to the industry in parallel positions among organizations similar to the petitioner. The copies of the sample approval notices and support documentation for technical writer positions previously approved by the Bureau have been reviewed; the petitioner has not shown, however, that the nature of its business activities is similar to the nature of the business activities of the sample petitioners. It is also noted that, although at the time of the filing of the instant petition the petitioner had been established for approximately 10 years, its 1999 federal income tax return reflects that it paid only \$51,431 in salaries and wages. Here again, the petitioner has not persuasively established that its organization is similar to the organizations in the sample approvals. Finally, the petitioner did not demonstrate that the nature of the beneficiary's proposed duties is so specialized and complex that the knowledge required

to perform the duties is usually associated with the attainment of a baccalaureate or higher degree.

The petitioner has failed to establish that any of the four factors enumerated above are present in this proceeding. Accordingly, it is concluded that the petitioner has not demonstrated that the offered position is a specialty occupation within the meaning of the regulations.

The burden of proof in these proceedings rests solely with the petitioner. Section 291 of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1361. The petitioner has not sustained that burden.

**ORDER:** The appeal is dismissed.