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U.S. Citizenship  
and Immigration  
Services

D2

FILE: EAC 01 141 52062 Office: VERMONT SERVICE CENTER Date: FEB 3 2004

IN RE: Petitioner:  
Beneficiary:

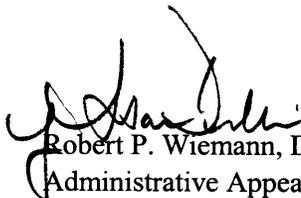
PETITION: Petition for a Nonimmigrant Worker Pursuant to Section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b) of the  
Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b)

ON BEHALF OF PETITIONER:

SELF-REPRESENTED

INSTRUCTIONS:

This is the decision of the Administrative Appeals Office 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.

  
Robert P. Wiemann, Director  
Administrative Appeals Office

**DISCUSSION:** The director of the Vermont Service Center denied the nonimmigrant visa petition and the matter is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal. The matter will be remanded to the director to treat the appeal as a motion.

The petitioner is a manufacturer of dental x-ray equipment that seeks to employ the beneficiary as a sales training representative. The petitioner endeavors to classify the beneficiary as a nonimmigrant worker in a specialty occupation pursuant to 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). The director denied the petition on the basis that the proffered position did not meet the definition of a specialty occupation.

An affected party has 30 days from the date of an adverse decision to file an appeal, and the appeal must be filed with the Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS) office where the unfavorable decision was made. 8 C.F.R. § 103.3(a)(2)(i). If the adverse decision was served by mail, an additional three days is added to the proscribed period. 8 C.F.R. 103.5a(b).

The record reflects that the director sent his decision of May 17, 2002 to the petitioner at its address of record, and that the petitioner filed its appeal with the AAO instead of with the Vermont Service Center. The record also reflects that the AAO received the appeal on June 19, 2002 and forwarded it to the Vermont Service Center, where it was received 60 days later on July 16, 2002. Therefore, the appeal was untimely filed.

An appeal that is not filed within the time allowed must be rejected as improperly filed. 8 C.F.R. § 103.3(a)(2)(v)(B)(1). If, however, an untimely appeal meets the requirements of a motion to reopen or reconsider, the appeal must be treated as a motion, and a decision must be made on the merits of the case. 8 C.F.R. § 103.3(a)(2)(v)(B)(2).

A motion to reopen must state the new facts to be proved in the reopened proceeding and be supported by affidavits or other documentary evidence. 8 C.F.R. § 103.5(a)(2). A motion to reconsider must: (1) state the reasons for reconsideration and be supported by any pertinent precedent decisions to establish that the decision was based on an incorrect application of law or CIS policy; and (2) establish that the decision was incorrect based on the evidence of record at the time of the initial decision. 8 C.F.R. § 103.5(a)(3).

On appeal, counsel submits evidence that satisfies the requirements of a motion. Therefore, the matter will be remanded to the director to treat the appeal as a motion. The director may request any additional evidence deemed necessary to assist him with the determination. As always in these proceedings, the burden of proof rests solely with the petitioner. Section 291 of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1361.

**ORDER:** The petition is remanded to the director for entry of a new decision.