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U.S. Department of Justice

Immigration and Naturalization Service

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



File: WAC-00-108-52026 Office: California Service Center Date: SEP 25 2002

IN RE: Petitioner: [Redacted]
Beneficiary: [Redacted]

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

IN BEHALF OF PETITIONER:



Public Copy

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.

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 which 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 Service 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 which originally decided your case along with a fee of \$110 as required under 8 C.F.R. 103.7.

FOR THE ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER,
EXAMINATIONS

Robert P. Wiemann, Director
Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The nonimmigrant visa petition was denied by the Director, California Service Center. The matter is now before the Associate Commissioner for Examinations on appeal. The appeal will be dismissed.

The petitioner is described as an import and export trading company. It seeks to extend the beneficiary's temporary employment in the United States as its president. The director determined that the petitioner had not established that the beneficiary had been or would be employed in a primarily managerial or executive capacity.

On appeal, counsel asserted that the director had abused her discretion in denying the petition.

To establish L-1 eligibility under section 101(a)(15)(L) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), 8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(L), the petitioner must demonstrate that the beneficiary, within three years preceding the beneficiary's application for admission into the United States, has been employed abroad in a qualifying managerial or executive capacity, or in a capacity involving specialized knowledge, for one continuous year by a qualifying organization and seeks to enter the United States temporarily in order to continue to render his or her services to the same employer or a subsidiary or affiliate thereof in a capacity that is managerial, executive, or involves specialized knowledge.

8 C.F.R. 214.2(l)(3) states that an individual petition filed on Form I-129 shall be accompanied by:

(i) Evidence that the petitioner and the organization which employed or will employ the alien are qualifying organizations as defined in paragraph (l)(1)(ii)(G) of this section.

(ii) Evidence that the alien will be employed in an executive, managerial, or specialized knowledge capacity, including a detailed description of the services to be performed.

The United States petitioner was incorporated in 1998 and claims that it is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the overseas company, Jan & Jason Import & Export Company, Limited, located in Taiwan. The petitioner declares four employees and over \$452,000 in gross revenues. The petitioner seeks to employ the beneficiary for three years at a monthly salary of \$2,500.

At issue in this proceeding is whether the petitioner has established that the beneficiary will be employed primarily in a managerial or executive capacity.

Section 101(a)(44)(A) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(44)(A),

provides:

The term "managerial capacity" means an assignment within an organization in which the employee primarily-

- i. manages the organization, or a department, subdivision, function, or component of the organization;
- ii. supervises and controls the work of other supervisory, professional, or managerial employees, or manages an essential function within the organization, or a department or subdivision of the organization;
- iii. if another employee or other employees are directly supervised, has the authority to hire and fire or recommend those as well as other personnel actions (such as promotion and leave authorization), or if no other employee is directly supervised, functions at a senior level within the organizational hierarchy or with respect to the function managed; and
- iv. exercises discretion over the day-to-day operations of the activity or function for which the employee has authority. A first-line supervisor is not considered to be acting in a managerial capacity merely by virtue of the supervisor's supervisory duties unless the employees supervised are professional.

Section 101(a)(44)(B) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(44)(B), provides:

The term "executive capacity" means an assignment within an organization in which the employee primarily-

- i. directs the management of the organization or a major component or function of the organization;
- ii. establishes the goals and policies of the organization, component, or function;
- iii. exercises wide latitude in discretionary decision-making; and
- iv. receives only general supervision or direction from higher level executives, the board of directors, or stockholders of the organization.

In a letter accompanying the initial petition, the petitioner stated that, in his position as company president, the

beneficiary: "developed domestic business connections, signed contracts, arranged for shipping (both import and export, when necessary), assisted with management, budgeted sales operations, established and educated staff, compiled reports of his work for the parent corporation and organized a business proposal for the coming fiscal year."

Pursuant to a notice dated May 2, 2000, the petitioner was requested to submit "evidence to establish that the beneficiary has been or will be performing the duties of a manager or executive with the U.S. company." The petitioner responded by submitting an organization chart showing that the beneficiary as the General Manager. This chart also shows that the beneficiary is responsible for "production" and describes the duties of this position as "buying all new production and inspection."

The director determined that the petitioner had failed to demonstrate that the beneficiary was to be employed in a managerial or executive capacity and denied the petition. On appeal, counsel asserted that the director had misinterpreted the beneficiary's duties in "'production' work."

On review, the record as presently constituted is not persuasive in demonstrating that the beneficiary will be employed in a primarily managerial or executive capacity. The fact that an individual possesses an executive or managerial title does not *prima facie* establish eligibility for classification as a manager or executive within the meaning of section 101(a)(44)(A) and (B) of the Act. The Service must first look to the petitioner's description of the beneficiary's job duties and the evidence submitted in support of the claimed duties.

Counsel, on appeal, asserted that it was "not unusual for an individual of executive capacity in a smaller organization to perform a combination of duties." Counsel further explained that a portion of the beneficiary's time would be spent directly fulfilling contracts and inspecting shipments. An employee who performs the tasks necessary to provide a company's services is not considered to be employed in a managerial or executive capacity. Matter of Church Scientology International, 19 I&N Dec. 593, 604 (Comm. 1988).

The evidence does not demonstrate that the beneficiary's primary duties will be directing the management of the organization; instead, it appears that a sizable percentage of his time will be spent performing the petitioner's services in trading with its customers and suppliers. Nor does the record support a conclusion that the beneficiary primarily manages an essential function within the organization and functions at a senior level in an organizational hierarchy on a day-to-day basis. Based on the record of proceeding as constituted, the petitioner has failed to demonstrate that the beneficiary will be employed primarily in a qualifying managerial or executive capacity. For

this reason, the petition may not be approved.

In visa petition proceedings, the burden of proving eligibility for the benefit sought remains entirely with the petitioner. Section 291 of the Act, 8 U.S.C. 1361. Here, that burden has not been met.

ORDER: The appeal is dismissed.