



U.S. Department of Justice

Immigration and Naturalization Service

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

File: SRC 01 071 52068 Office: TEXAS SERVICE CENTER

Date: FEB 26 2003

IN RE: Petitioner:
Beneficiary:

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:

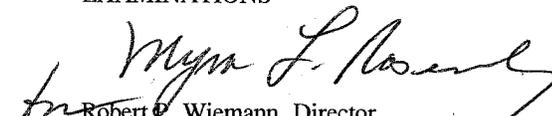
This is the decision in your case. All documents have been returned to the office that originally decided your case. Any further inquiry must be made to that office.

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 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 that 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 E. Wiemann, Director
Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The nonimmigrant visa petition was denied by the Director, Texas Service Center. The matter is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal. The appeal will be dismissed.

The petitioner is an import and export business that manufactures decorative building materials. It seeks to continue to employ the beneficiary in the United States as its vice president for a three year period. The director determined that the petitioner had not established that the beneficiary would be employed in the United States in a managerial or executive capacity.

On appeal, counsel states that the director's denial of the petitioner's petition for intracompany transferee as a nonimmigrant worker was erroneous under the laws and regulations. Counsel further states that the facts of the case, when considered with the additional evidence to be submitted, will cause the decision of the director to be reversed and the petition to be granted. Counsel cites *Matter of Irish Dairy Board, Inc.*

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.

8 C.F.R. § 214.2(l)(14)(ii) states that a visa petition under section 101(a)(15)(L) which involved the opening of a new office may be extended by filing a new Form I-129, accompanied by the following:

(A) Evidence that the United States and foreign entities are still qualifying organizations as defined in paragraph (1)(1)(ii)(G) of this section;

(B) Evidence that the United States entity has been doing business as defined in paragraph (1)(1)(ii)(H) of this section for the previous year;

(C) A statement of the duties performed by the beneficiary for the previous year and the duties the beneficiary will perform under the extended petition;

(D) A statement describing the staffing of the new operation, including the number of employees and types of positions held accompanied by evidence of wages paid to employees when the beneficiary will be employed in a managerial or executive capacity; and

(E) Evidence of the financial status of the United States operation.

The issue to be addressed in this proceeding is whether the petitioner has established that the beneficiary will be employed in the United States in a primarily 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
- iii. receives only general supervision or direction from higher level executives, the board of directors, or stockholders of the organization.

In a letter dated June 18, 2001, the petitioner's Corporate Secretary describes the beneficiary's proposed job duties as follows:

At this position, [REDACTED] will spend 80% of his working time on performing the following duties:

- (a) Assist the President in directing the management of the Company;
- (b) Establish the goals and policies of the Company;
- (c) Direct and supervise the operation of the Company;
- (d) Determine marketing objective and business tragedies.

Since the Company is still on its early set up stage, the Vice President will also take some managerial duties such as:

- (a) Negotiate and enter contract [sic] with local and overseas companies;
- (b) Hire, dismiss, and promote employees; and
- (c) Establish business relations with local and overseas companies.

The record contains an affidavit from the beneficiary explaining his duties as follows:

THAT in addition to the duties stated on my I-129 petition submitted on June 20, 2001, I am responsible for setting up the company's goals; reviewing sales and profit reports prepared by [REDACTED]

reviewing and analyzing market reports to locate business opportunities; meeting with executives and managers of other companies in developing business relationships and to negotiate contracts.

THAT I spend over 75% of my time effectuating the above duties and spend about 25% of my time reviewing, directing and supervising the company's employees and operations.

In a letter dated June 18, 2001, the petitioner indicates that there are four people working for the U.S. firm, including the beneficiary. Other than the beneficiary, these included the president of the firm and two corporate secretaries, all working on a part-time basis.

Counsel refers to an unpublished decision involving an employee of the Irish Dairy Board. In the Irish Dairy Board case, it was held that the beneficiary met the requirement of serving in a managerial and executive capacity for L-1 classification even though he was the sole employee of the petitioning organization. However, counsel has furnished no evidence to establish that the facts of the instant case are in any way analogous to those in the Irish Dairy Board case. Simply going on record without supporting documents is not sufficient for purposes of meeting the burden of proof in these proceedings. See Matter of Treasure Craft of California, 14 I&N Dec. 190 (Reg. Comm. 1972). Furthermore, while 8 C.F.R. § 103.3(c) provides that Service precedent decisions are binding on all Service employees in the administration of the Act, unpublished decisions are not similarly binding.

In this case, the descriptions of the beneficiary's job duties are insufficient to warrant a finding that the beneficiary will be employed in a managerial capacity. At the time of filing, the beneficiary was holding the number two job in a four person office. It appears that the beneficiary will be performing operational rather than managerial duties. The petitioner has provided insufficient evidence to establish that the beneficiary has been or will be managing or directing the management of a function, department, subdivision or component of the company.

Based upon the record, the petitioner has not provided evidence that the beneficiary will be managing a subordinate staff of professional, managerial or supervisory personnel who relieve him from performing non-qualifying duties. The beneficiary is the individual performing the necessary tasks for the ongoing operation of the company, rather than primarily directing or managing those functions through the work of others. Consequently, the petitioner has not demonstrated that the beneficiary will be employed in the United States in a primarily 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.