Barcode Specifications

**Background**

USCIS has implemented a 2D (two-dimensional) barcode on each page of selected forms that can be used to replace form data entry.

Not every piece of data that the user entered on the form is included in the barcode or appears in the barcode exactly as entered on the form.

- Data entered "by hand" (i.e., handwritten onto the form rather than entered by computer) will not be reflected in the barcode.
- Some data that the user has entered via computer on the form is not captured in the barcode at all.
- Some fields entered on the form by computer are represented in the barcode as combined or altered.

Data is encoded in the barcode in a specific format that allows the data to be parsed (separated) into distinct fields.

- Vertical bars ('|'|) denote the end of each field in the text string. This includes the last field in the barcode.
- Defined fields that contain no data may be represented by two consecutive bars ('||') or by bars separated by any number of blank spaces (' |           | ').
- The end of line is not a field separator.
- Data within the barcode relates to data on the same physical page. No barcode contains data from a field entered on a different page.

There are three data fields included in the barcode that are not based on data entered by the applicant. These are the first three data fields in each barcode.

- Form type
- Form revision date
- Form page number

**Technical characteristics**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Barcode Type:</th>
<th>PDF 417</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Error Correction Length:</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module Height/Length:</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scanning Method:</td>
<td>Document Scanner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data Compaction:</td>
<td>Byte Compaction (BC)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Barcode Measurements</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Inches</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Module Width:</td>
<td>0.958pt</td>
<td>0.0133in</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Actual Width of Barcode:</td>
<td>540pt</td>
<td>7.5in</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Actual Height of Barcode:</td>
<td>108pt</td>
<td>1.5in</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:**

Print on a high resolution printer, either Laser or InkJet.
Barcode Specifications

Decoding

The decoded data contained in this example barcode looks like this:

I-90|12/29/14|1|11111111|222222222222|Family NameAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA|Given NameAAAAAAAAA|Middle NameCCCCCCC|N|
|||In Care of NameAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA|111 Street Number Nameaaa APT APT1|City or TownAAAAAAAAA|DC|11111|||USA|

This example barcode contains 20 fields:

1: I-90
2: 12/29/14
3: 1
4: 111111111
5: 222222222222
6: Family NameAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA
7: Given NameAAAAAAAAAAA
8: Middle NameCCCCCCC
9: N
10:
11:
12:
13: In Care of NameAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA
14: 111 Street Number Nameaaa APT APT1
15: City or TownAAAAAAAAA
16: DC
17: 11111
18:
19:
20: USA

There are decoding tools available online that can be used to test barcodes. Using your preferred search engine, enter "pdf417 decoding".