



July 25, 2011

External Data Interface Standards (EDIS) *July Bulletin*

What does Transformation Look Like in 2011?

Transformation is changing the process for filing and adjudicating immigration benefits from a paper-based system to an electronic account-based system. The new system will be deployed through a series of releases, adding new functionality, benefit types and/or locations approximately every six months. The initial phase of Transformation will be available in December 2011 and will include stand-alone I-539 requests for change of status or extension of stay for foreign nationals holding B-1 (Business Visitor), B-2 (Tourist), F (Student), J (Exchange Visitor), and M (Vocational Student) visas.

In the initial phase of the new system, Transformation will provide an easy-to-use electronic system for submitting and tracking applications. This will include a(an):

- ✓ Secure process to **initiate electronic filing of select applications**
- ✓ Electronic **upload of evidence and e-payment option**
- ✓ **Up-to-date and complete applicant information available** to USCIS officers when adjudicating cases
- ✓ **Up-to-date case status information for users which can be** accessed through their online account
- ✓ Easy-to-use, electronic process to **update personal information**, such as e-mail address, phone number and contact preferences
- ✓ **Single online account** to access history of all online interactions with USCIS

For the foreseeable future, much of the customer experience will stay the same, including:

- Applications not yet available in the new system will be submitted and processed through paper and current e-filing channels
- Applicants will schedule an INFOPASS appointment online to speak with a USCIS officer in person
- Applicants may call the National Customer Service Center for assistance
- Customers may view case status online for those applications not submitted in the new system by entering a receipt number
- Customers may continue to receive receipt notices by mail
- Official change-of-address will take place through the AR-11 process

Please continue to check for website update at www.uscis.gov/transformation.

Most Recent EDIS Transformation Mailbox Questions

Question: When is EDIS going to release detailed specifications so that we can start programming to them? Is there a document including draft specifications for USCIS e-filing, either for the system as a whole or for the I-539 pilot that you plan to launch?

Answer: The initial phase of Transformation provides the foundation and core capabilities of the system. Applicants will be able to electronically file I-539s via the internet. The ability to submit benefit requests to USCIS via a third party case management system will not be available during this initial phase. During the initial release of Transformation, USCIS will continue to make adjustments and updates to the system to ensure that it functions as expected. USCIS will then determine the protocols and processes for the next phase of Transformation. We will reconvene regular EDIS collaboration sessions with external interested parties to continue EDIS specifications discussions. These EDIS collaboration sessions will provide participants insight to schemas, data definitions, domain and exchange models, timeline, etc.

USCIS will make these specifications publically available with enough time for external partners to adequately engineer a solution for their systems to ensure full compatibility. In the meantime, the EDIS bulletin, which is emailed out quarterly to interested stakeholders and posted on the USCIS website, will keep you apprised of EDIS-related information.

USCIS welcomes your ongoing feedback on this effort. Please email any questions and comments to Transform.EDIS@DHS.gov.

Upcoming EDIS Events

USCIS will be publishing another quarterly EDIS bulletin in October 2011. Prior to that, additional information on EDIS can be found at www.uscis.gov/outreach, under the “Notes from Previous Engagements by Topic” section, by clicking on “Transformation.” Summaries from previous EDIS Exchange Collaboration Sessions are also provided under the same section.