

External Data Interface Standards (EDIS) Exchange

March Collaboration Session (#3)

March 22, 2010



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EDIS Exchange Meeting Objectives

Ms. Mary Herrmann, Office of Public Engagement

1. Answer and confirm follow up questions from last session
2. Provide general information about the concept of immigration accounts
3. Understand the scope and details of some data elements and how they will be converted into schemas
4. Gather feedback on electronic signatures



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Working collaboratively towards a summer 2011 implementation date

- Deployment of the first release, which includes the capability for system to system e-filing (EDIS) is scheduled for the summer of 2011.
- EDIS IEPD Specification Version 1.0 is scheduled to be published in the fall of 2010.



*All dates subject to change.

- Technical requirements and business rules are currently being defined by USCIS.
- Collaboration sessions allow interested parties to get a preview of proposed requirements and rules as they are being defined.



Follow Up to Questions from the Last Session

Ms. Diane Kuhla

Office of Transformation Coordination

Solutions Architect Team for Case Management



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Follow Up to Questions from Last Session

- **Question: When you mention payment information, are you talking about credit card information or waiting for a check to be sent in separately?**
 - **Response:** We are referring to various forms of electronic payment, such as credit card information. USCIS would not hold the application to wait for the check to be mailed, so we are not talking about any follow up paper payment methods. We will share more details about how electronic payments will be handled in future EDIS Exchange sessions.

- **Question: Have you thought about setting up and offering an attorney payment account, like Pay Pal through USCIS? It would be like a debit account where the attorney would keep the account balance up and USCIS would debit from it for the transactions.**
 - **Response:** This functionality has been requested many times over the years and has been circulated among several government agencies for recommendations. However, at this time USCIS will not be considering this initiative.

- **Question: How will you handle signatures?**
 - **Response:** Electronic signatures are different from digital signatures. USCIS will continue internal discussions on electronic signatures. Input is requested at the end of this session and more details will be provided at subsequent collaboration sessions.

- **Question: If a filer submits the application by paper first, would the filer be able to then utilize the system to system interface later? For Status?**
 - **Response:** Yes, as long as the requesting system complies with EDIS and provides a case ID, the USCIS Transformation system will be able to respond to the "Case Status" for the submitted case ID.



Understanding the Concept of Immigration Accounts

Mr. Rob Gaines

USCIS Office of Transformation Coordination

Immigration Accounts Management



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An immigration account is established following a person or organization centric identity model.

- An immigration account is a collection of organized information about an entity involved in the immigration process
 - One entity = one account
 - One person = one account
 - One organization = one account
 - A role enables a person to perform certain functions in the process
 - An immigration account holder can have many roles (a person can serve in both the role of an accredited representative and the role of an applicant)
 - The person will specify the role in which they are acting when doing business with USCIS online
 - Specific privileges will be granted, based on an individual's role
- Industry best practices of identity management use person centric accounts based on having one immigration account for one person
- Common data elements need to be used to enhance interoperability across the Immigration and Border Management Enterprise (IBME)



Individual immigration accounts will be established with common data elements.

Information required to establish an immigration account:

1. Common data elements
 - Establish the foundation for uniqueness of individuals/organizations and promote interoperability across the DHS enterprise
 - Provides reliable, accurate and quick correlation of relevant information across the DHS enterprise
2. Additional role relevant elements (if applicable)
 - Based on an individual's initial intent to act in a certain role, specific information will be collected that will provide additional "qualifications" to act in a certain role
 - Additional "qualifications" will further the uniqueness of an individual entity



Many account types for individual immigration accounts will be available in the first release.

- Applicant / Petitioner / Beneficiary
 - Applicant applies for an immigration benefit for themselves
 - Petitioner submits a benefit request on behalf of a beneficiary
 - Beneficiary receives an immigration benefit
- Attorney / Representative
 - Must be in good standing of the bar
 - Must be accredited by the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) to act on behalf of an applicant or petitioner
 - Account will be created using a customer-initiated online process or by inferring the account from a paper-based application or petition

Additional roles may be added, pending decision by USCIS.



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Understanding the EDIS IEPD Exchange Model

Ms. Diane Kuhla

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Solutions Architect Team for Case Management



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Each benefit request will consist of six parts and serve as a standard template for the collection of data.

	Standard	Purpose and Description
Filer's Information	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Establishes applicant's identity for all future transactions. ▪ Creates account for benefit seeker (directly or inferred) ▪ Collected one time and reused
Application Type		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identifies specific benefit (i.e.; extension, renewal, change of status, replacement, etc.) and the benefit combinations the customer may request
Eligibility Information		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Specific to benefit sought ▪ Provides data relative to the benefit being sought and is similar to the "Processing Information" on current USCIS forms
Information about Persons Included in Application	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provides data concerning "other" persons included in the application, whether they be additional family members seeking the same benefit as the applicant (i.e.; I-539) or someone else for whom the applicant is applying (i.e. advance parole for someone else) ▪ Assists in system engineering and consistency ▪ Used as needed, based on benefit request ▪ Standard in "most" cases yet, if "other persons" could not be included in the benefit being sought, the term "reserved" or "this part left blank purposely" would appear on paper form
Signature and Attestation	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Obtain the applicant's signature at the time of submission of the request ▪ Standardizes the attestation that the applicant certifies, swears and affirms under the penalty of perjury and other U.S. laws that all information and evidence submitted to establish an account and seek the benefit are true and correct
Preparer and/or Designation of Representative	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Obtains information and attestations from preparers ▪ Incorporates G-28 into each benefit request rather than a separate G-28

Additional data will be required to support new immigration account and case management capabilities.

- Current forms are used to establish the baseline set of requirements for identity, admissibility and benefit eligibility data.
- Benefit requests will align with the customer-centric processes being implemented for e-filing customers and ensure consistency among all filing channels
- Implementation of revised benefit requests will be incremental.
 - Upcoming release will modify existing forms to include additional data elements, consistent labels and structure for common data, and revised instructions.

EDIS will reflect redesigned benefit requests and allow the collection of new and/or additional data from USCIS customers.



Benefit requests will be completely revised and supporting requests are expected to have fewer changes.

Extensive Changes

Current Benefit Requests (Form Number):

Will Conform to New Standard Template

- Application to Extend/Change Nonimmigrant Status (I-539)
- Temporary Protected Status/TPS (I-821)
- Application for Replacement/Initial Non-immigrant Arrival – Departure Document (I-102)
- Application for Employment Authorization Document/EAD (I-765)
- Application for Travel Document (I-131)
 - Advance Parole
 - Re-entry Permits
 - Refugee Travel Documents
 - Humanitarian Parole
- Replacement of Permanent Residence Card (I-90)

Limited Changes

Current Documentation (Form Number):

Accompany or Filed Subsequent to a Benefit Request

- Affidavit of Support (I-134)
- Application for Waiver of Grounds of Inadmissibility (I-601)
- Application for Action on an Approved Application or Petition (I-824)
- Waiver of Rights, Privileges, Exemptions and Immunities (Under Section 247(b) of the INA) (I-508)
- Inter-Agency Record of Request – A, G or NATO Dependent Employment Authorization or Change/Adjustment to/from A, G or NATO status (I-566)
- Attorney/Representative Authorization (G-28)
- Notice of Appeal or Motion (which is filed after a benefit request) (I-290 B)
- Change of Address (AR-11)

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Input Requested: Electronic Signatures

USCIS is defining the requirements of electronic signatures, but would like stakeholder input on various components of e-signatures and how it will be handled in this interface.

- 3rd party case management system collect and authenticate electronic signature of applicant/petitioner
- Paper signature, scanned and transmitted
- Collection of biometrics
- Information on other government agencies authenticating electronic signatures



Closing: USCIS appreciates your participation.

- Additional Questions Regarding the Topics Covered?
- Meeting minutes / materials posted in the next few days
- USCIS wants to better understand your needs
 - Evaluations of previous sessions
 - Additional topics for future sessions
 - New participant suggestions
- Invitation for the April 21st EDIS Exchange will be posted and registration will begin within the next two weeks.
- Send comments to Transform.EDIS@dhs.gov.



Questions?

Transform.EDIS@DHS.gov



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