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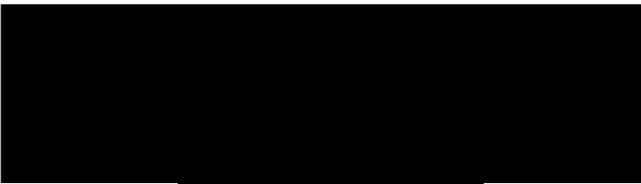
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U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
U. S. Citizenship and Immigration Services  
Office of Administrative Appeals MS 2090  
Washington, DC 20529-2090



U.S. Citizenship  
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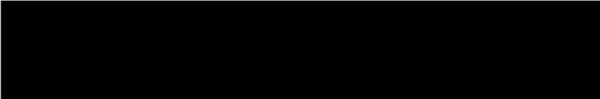
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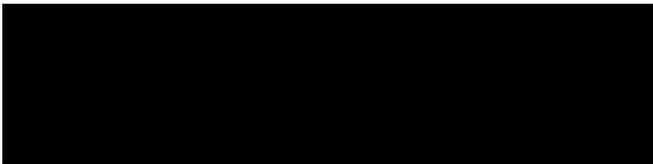
Petitioner:



Beneficiary:

PETITION: Immigrant petition for Alien Worker as a Skilled Worker or Professional Pursuant to Section 203(b)(3) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1153(b)(3)

ON BEHALF OF PETITIONER:



INSTRUCTIONS:

This is the decision of the Administrative Appeals Office 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 you have additional information that you wish to have considered, you may file a motion to reconsider or a motion to reopen. Please refer to 8 C.F.R. § 103.5 for the specific requirements. All motions must be submitted to the office that originally decided your case by filing a Form I-290B, Notice of Appeal or Motion, with a fee of \$585. Any motion must be filed within 30 days of the decision that the motion seeks to reconsider, as required by 8 C.F.R. § 103.5(a)(1)(i).

Perry Rhew  
Chief, Administrative Appeals Office

**DISCUSSION:** The Director, Nebraska Service Center, denied the employment-based immigrant visa petition, which is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal. The appeal will be dismissed.

The petitioner claims to be an information technology services business. It seeks to permanently employ the beneficiary in the United States as a programmer analyst. The petitioner requests classification of the beneficiary as a skilled worker or professional pursuant to section 203(b)(3)(A) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), 8 U.S.C. § 1153(b)(3)(A).<sup>1</sup> The petition is accompanied by a Form ETA 750, Application for Alien Employment Certification (labor certification), certified by the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL). The priority date of the petition, which is the date the labor certification was accepted for processing by the DOL, is November 15, 2004. *See* 8 C.F.R. § 204.5(d).

The director denied the petition on March 24, 2008. The decision states that the petitioner failed to establish that the beneficiary possessed the educational requirements of the job offered as set forth in the labor certification. On April 22, 2008, the petitioner appealed the decision to the AAO.

The AAO issued a request for evidence (RFE) on December 1, 2009.<sup>2</sup> The RFE states that the evidence in the record was not sufficient to establish that the beneficiary possessed a bachelor's degree.

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<sup>1</sup>Section 203(b)(3)(A)(i) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1153(b)(3)(A)(i), provides for the granting of preference classification to qualified immigrants who are capable, at the time of petitioning for classification under this paragraph, of performing skilled labor (requiring at least two years training or experience), not of a temporary nature, for which qualified workers are not available in the United States. The regulation at 8 C.F.R. § 204.5(l)(3)(ii)(B) requires the petitioner to submit evidence establishing that the beneficiary meets all of the requirements of the offered position as set forth in the labor certification.

Section 203(b)(3)(A)(ii) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1153(b)(3)(A)(ii), provides for the granting of preference classification to qualified immigrants who hold baccalaureate degrees and are members of the professions. The regulation at 8 C.F.R. § 204.5(l)(3)(ii)(C) states:

If the petition is for a professional, the petition must be accompanied by evidence that the alien holds a United States baccalaureate degree or a foreign equivalent degree and by evidence that the alien is a member of the professions. Evidence of a baccalaureate degree shall be in the form of an official college or university record showing the date the baccalaureate degree was awarded and the area of concentration of study. To show that the alien is a member of the professions, the petitioner must submit evidence that the minimum of a baccalaureate degree is required for entry into the occupation.

A petition for a professional must also establish that the beneficiary meets any training or experience requirements set forth in the labor certification. 8 C.F.R. § 204.5(l)(3)(ii)(A).

<sup>2</sup>The AAO maintains plenary power to review each appeal on a *de novo* basis. 5 U.S.C. § 557(b)

Accordingly, the RFE instructed the petitioner to submit evidence establishing that the minimum requirements of the offered position includes alternatives to a bachelor's degree, such as the credentials held by the beneficiary.

The RFE specifically alerted the petitioner that it was afforded 45 days to respond. *See* 8 C.F.R. § 103.2(b)(8). To date, the AAO has not received a response to the RFE. Failure to submit requested evidence that precludes a material line of inquiry shall be grounds for denying the petition. *See* 8 C.F.R. § 103.2(b)(14). Because the petitioner failed to respond to the RFE, the AAO is dismissing the appeal.

The burden of proof in these proceedings rests solely with the petitioner. Section 291 of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1361. The petitioner has not met that burden.

**ORDER:** The appeal is dismissed.

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("On appeal from or review of the initial decision, the agency has all the powers which it would have in making the initial decision except as it may limit the issues on notice or by rule."); *see also, Janka v. U.S. Dept. of Transp., NTSB*, 925 F.2d 1147, 1149 (9th Cir. 1991). The AAO's *de novo* authority has been long recognized by the federal courts. *See, e.g. Dor v. INS*, 891 F.2d 997, 1002 n. 9 (2d Cir. 1989).