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U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services  
Administrative Appeals Office (AAO)  
20 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., MS 2090  
Washington, DC 20529-2090



U.S. Citizenship  
and Immigration  
Services

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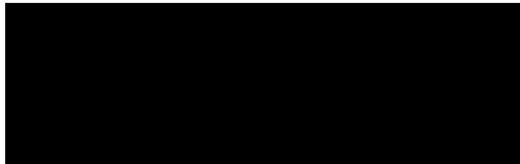
Date: **FEB 09 2012** Office: TEXAS SERVICE CENTER

FILE: 

IN RE: 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Perry Rhew".

Perry Rhew  
Chief, Administrative Appeals Office

**DISCUSSION:** The employment-based visa petition was dismissed by the Director, Texas Service Center (director), and is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal. The matter will be remanded to the director.

The petitioner is a construction company. It seeks to employ the beneficiary permanently in the United States as a stonemason. As required by statute, the petition is accompanied by a Form ETA 750, Application for Alien Employment Certification, approved by the United States Department of Labor (DOL). In his November 4, 2008, decision, the director correctly identified the petitioner as seeking classification of the beneficiary as a skilled worker and correctly stated that a position as a skilled worker "requires at least two years of training or experience." However, the director incorrectly stated that the job described on the Form ETA 750 required "THREE MONTHS OF EXPERIENCE." The director denied the petition, accordingly.

Section 203(b)(3)(A)(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (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 AAO maintains plenary power to review each appeal on a *de novo* basis. 5 U.S.C. § 557(b) ("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).

Upon review of the record, the AAO has determined that the director committed an error of fact, and the petition was not duly considered by the director. In view of the foregoing, the director's decision will be withdrawn. However, the record of proceedings contains insufficient evidence to establish the petitioner's ability to pay the proffered wage. Therefore, the petition is remanded to the director. The director may request any additional evidence considered pertinent. Similarly, the petitioner may provide additional evidence within a reasonable period of time to be determined by the director. Upon receipt of all the evidence, the director will review the entire record and enter a new decision.

**ORDER:** The director's decision is withdrawn. The petition is remanded to the director for further action in accordance with the foregoing and entry of a new decision.