

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



B6

DATE: **OCT 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:

Enclosed please find the decision of the Administrative Appeals Office in your case. All of the documents related to this matter have been returned to the office that originally decided your case. Please be advised that any further inquiry that you might have concerning your case must be made to that office.

Thank you.

Perry Rhew  
Chief, Administrative Appeals Office

**DISCUSSION:** The Director, Texas Service Center, revoked the approval of a Form I-140, Immigrant Petition for Alien Worker, and dismissed a subsequent motion to reopen/motion to reconsider. The petitioner appealed the director's decision and the matter is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO). The appeal will be rejected.

The petitioner is engaged in general construction. It seeks to permanently employ the beneficiary in the United States as a wood finisher. The petitioner requests classification of the beneficiary as a professional or skilled worker pursuant to section 203(b)(3)(A) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), 8 U.S.C. § 1153(b)(3)(A). The petition was filed with a labor certification approved by the United States Department of Labor (USDOL) on behalf of another beneficiary. The director denied the petition as the petitioner failed to file it with a valid labor certification pursuant to 8 C.F.R. § 204.5(l)(3)(i).

The AAO conducts appellate review on a *de novo* basis. See *Soltane v. DOJ*, 381 F.3d 143, 145 (3d Cir. 2004).

The labor certification is evidence of an individual alien's admissibility under section 212(a)(5)(A)(i) of the Act, which provides:

In general.-Any alien who seeks to enter the United States for the purpose of performing skilled or unskilled labor is inadmissible, unless the Secretary of Labor has determined and certified to the Secretary of State and the Attorney General that-

- (I) there are not sufficient workers who are able, willing, qualified (or equally qualified in the case of an alien described in clause (ii)) and available at the time of application for a visa and admission to the United States and at the place where the alien is to perform such skilled or unskilled labor, and
- (II) the employment of such alien will not adversely affect the wages and working conditions of workers in the United States similarly employed.

The regulation at 20 C.F.R. § 656.11 states the following:

Substitution or change to the identity of an alien beneficiary on any application for permanent labor certification, whether filed under this part or 20 CFR part 656 in effect prior to March 28, 2005, and on any resulting certification, is prohibited for any request to substitute submitted after July 16, 2007.

Additionally, the regulation at 20 C.F.R. § 656.30(c)(2) provides:

A permanent labor certification involving a specific job offer is valid only for the particular job opportunity, the alien named on the original application (unless a substitution was approved prior to July 16, 2007), and the area of intended employment stated on the *Application for Alien Employment Certification* (Form

ETA 750) or the *Application for Permanent Employment Certification* (Form ETA 9089).

The Act does not provide for the substitution of aliens in the permanent labor certification process. USDOL's regulation became effective July 16, 2007 and prohibits the substitution of alien beneficiaries on permanent labor certification applications and resulting certifications, as well as prohibiting the sale, barter, or purchase of permanent labor certifications and applications. The rule continues the Department's efforts to construct a deliberate, coordinated fraud reduction and prevention framework within the permanent labor certification program. *See* 72 Fed. Reg. 27904 (May 17, 2007).

The director determined that the petition was filed on July 24, 2007. Therefore, as substitution of beneficiaries was prohibited at that time, the petition was filed without a valid labor certification. Accordingly, the petition was denied due to the lack of a certification by the USDOL.

The record reflects the Form I-140 may have been received by USCIS on July 16, 2007, not July 24, 2007. Nevertheless, the substitution of the beneficiary could not have been approved *prior* to July 16, 2007. Consequently, the petitioner would not have been able to substitute the beneficiary. The petition was, therefore, likely filed without a valid certified labor certification pursuant to 8 C.F.R. § 204.5(l)(3)(i), assuming the AAO had jurisdiction to consider the merits of this argument.

The Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) delegates the authority to adjudicate appeals to the AAO pursuant to the authority vested in him through the Homeland Security Act of 2002, Pub. L. 107-296. *See* DHS Delegation Number 0150.1 (effective March 1, 2003); *see also* 8 C.F.R. § 2.1 (2003). The AAO exercises appellate jurisdiction over the matters described at 8 C.F.R. § 103.1(f)(3)(iii) (as in effect on February 28, 2003). *See* DHS Delegation Number 0150.1(U) *supra*; 8 C.F.R. § 103.3(a)(iv).

Among the appellate authorities are appeals from denials of petitions for immigrant visa classification based on employment, "except when the denial of the petition is based upon lack of a certification by the Secretary of Labor under section 212(a)(5)(A) of the Act." 8 C.F.R. § 103.1(f)(3)(iii)(B) (2003 ed.).

As alien labor certification substitution is no longer permitted and the petition was denied due to the lack of a valid labor certification, this office lacks jurisdiction to consider an appeal from the director's decision.

**ORDER:** The appeal is rejected.