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

[redacted]

D7

Date: DEC 19 2012 Office: CALIFORNIA SERVICE CENTER FILE: [redacted]

IN RE: Petitioner: [redacted]
Beneficiary:

PETITION: Petition for a Nonimmigrant Worker Pursuant to Section 101(a)(15)(L) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(15)(L)

ON BEHALF OF PETITIONER:

[redacted]

INSTRUCTIONS:

This is 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 you might have concerning your case must be made to that office.

Thank you,

Ron Rosenberg
Acting Chief, Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The Director, California Service Center, denied the nonimmigrant visa petition. The matter is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal. The appeal will be rejected as untimely filed.

In order to properly file an appeal, the regulation at 8 C.F.R. § 103.3(a)(2)(i) provides that the affected party or the attorney or representative of record must file the complete appeal within 30 days of service of the unfavorable decision. If the decision was mailed, the appeal must be filed within 33 days. 8 C.F.R. § 103.8(b). The date of filing is not the date of mailing, but the actual date of receipt at the designated filing location. 8 C.F.R. § 103.2(a)(7)(i).

The record indicates that the service center director issued the decision on February 16, 2012. It is noted that the service center director properly gave notice to the petitioner that it had 33 days to file the appeal. Neither the Act nor the pertinent regulations grant the AAO authority to extend this time limit.[1]

Although the Form I-290B is dated March 10, 2012, it was not received by the service center until March 29, 2012, or 42 days after the service center director's decision was issued. Accordingly, the appeal was untimely filed.

The regulation at 8 C.F.R. § 103.3(a)(2)(v)(B)(2) states that, if an untimely appeal meets the requirements of a motion to reopen or a motion to reconsider, the appeal must be treated as a motion, and a decision must be made on the merits of the case. The official having jurisdiction over a motion is the official who made the last decision in the proceeding, in this case the Director of the California Service Center. *See* 8 C.F.R. § 103.5(a)(1)(ii). The director declined to treat the appeal as a motion and forwarded the matter to the AAO.

As the appeal was untimely filed, the appeal must be rejected.

ORDER: The appeal is rejected.

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[1] The record reflects that the petitioner attempted to file the Form I-290B, Notice of Appeal or Motion, directly with the AAO on March 19, 2012. On March 20, 2012, the AAO properly returned the appeal and filing fee to the petitioner with instructions to file the appeal at the designated filing location. The AAO notes that the director's decision expressly advised the petitioner that "The appeal may not be filed directly with the AAO."