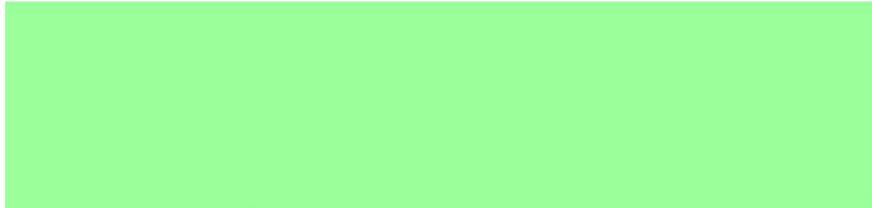




U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

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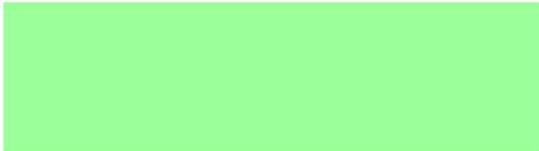


Date: **APR 01 2013** Office: CALIFORNIA SERVICE CENTER FILE:

IN RE: Petitioner:
Beneficiary:

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

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.

If you believe the AAO inappropriately applied the law in reaching its decision, or you have additional information that you wish to have considered, you may file a motion to reconsider or a motion to reopen in accordance with the instructions on Form I-290B, Notice of Appeal or Motion, with a fee of \$630. The specific requirements for filing such a motion can be found at 8 C.F.R. § 103.5. **Do not file any motion directly with the AAO.** Please be aware that 8 C.F.R. § 103.5(a)(1)(i) requires any motion to be filed within 30 days of the decision that the motion seeks to reconsider or reopen.

Thank you,

Ron Rosenberg
Acting Chief, Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The nonimmigrant visa petition was denied by the Director, California Service Center. It then came before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal. On October 25, 2012, this office provided the petitioner with notice of adverse information and afforded the petitioner an opportunity to provide rebuttal evidence.

The petitioner, an entity incorporated in India, states it is an affiliate of [REDACTED] a Texas corporation established in July 2007. During the adjudication of the appeal, the AAO discovered evidence that the U.S. company in this matter has "forfeited [its] existence" in Texas. The AAO also discovered that the beneficiary incorporated a business in Florida in January 2005, which bears the same name as the U.S. company affiliated to the petitioner. The Florida corporation was administratively dissolved in December 2006. The petitioner seeks to employ the beneficiary as president. Accordingly, the petitioner endeavors to classify the beneficiary as a nonimmigrant alien pursuant to section 101(a)(15)(L) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(15)(L).

Pursuant to 8 C.F.R. § 103.2(b)(16)(i), this office notified the petitioner that, according to the records at the Texas and Florida websites, the U.S. company is currently dissolved and its corporate status is "forfeited existence" in Texas and "inactive" in Florida. This office also notified the petitioner that if it is currently dissolved and inactive, this fact is material to its eligibility for the requested visa. Specifically, the petitioner's administrative dissolution and inactive corporate status raise serious questions about whether it continues to exist as an importing employer, whether the petitioner maintains a qualifying relationship, and whether it is authorized to conduct business in a regular and systematic manner. *See* section 214(c)(1) of the Act; *see also* 8 C.F.R. §§ 214.2(l)(1)(ii)(G) and (l)(3).

This office allowed the petitioner 30 days in which to provide evidence to rebut the finding that the petitioner has forfeited its existence in Texas and been administratively dissolved in Florida and that it is currently inactive. More than 30 days have passed and the petitioner has failed to respond to this office's request for a certificate of good standing or other proof that the petitioner remains in operation as a viable business. Thus, the appeal will be dismissed as moot.¹

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

¹ Even if the appeal could be sustained, the petition's approval would be subject to revocation pursuant to 8 C.F.R. § 214.2(l)(9)(iii) upon dissolution of the corporate entity. Accordingly, the AAO finds that the administrative dissolution of the petitioner and the company's inactive status deprives this appeal of any practical significance. Considerations of prudence warrant the dismissal of the appeal as moot. *See Matter of Luis*, 22 I&N Dec. 747, 753 (BIA 1999).