



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

July 9, 2002

Extension of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) For Salvadorans

Temporary Protected Status (TPS) is a temporary immigration status granted to eligible nationals of designated countries. During the period for which the Attorney General has designated a country under the TPS program, TPS beneficiaries are not required to leave the United States and may obtain work authorization. **However, TPS does not lead to permanent resident status.** When the Attorney General terminates a country's TPS designation, the alien will return to the status he or she had prior to TPS or to any other status they may have obtained while registered for TPS.

Q. Who is eligible for re-registration?

An alien who is a national of Salvador (or in the case of a alien having no nationality, a person who last habitually resided in El Salvador) may re-register for TPS and an extension of employment authorization. Re-registration is limited to persons who registered during the initial registration period that ends on September 9, 2002.

Individuals who have been convicted in the United States of either a felony or two or more misdemeanors committed in the United States are not eligible for TPS. Likewise, individuals subject to certain criminal or security-related bars to asylum are ineligible for TPS.

Q. How do I re-register for a TPS extension?

If you already have been granted TPS through the El Salvador TPS Program, your TPS will expire on September 9, 2002. Persons previously granted TPS under the El Salvador program may apply for an extension during the 60-day re-registration period from September 9, 2001 through November 12, 2002 by submitting: (If the applicant's application for TPS is still pending, he or she needs to re-register during the re-registration period.)

- An Application for Temporary Protected Status, Form I-821,
- An Application for Employment Authorization, Form I-765; and
- Two identification photographs (1 1/2" x 1 1/2").

Applicants for an extension of TPS benefits do not need to submit new fingerprints and therefore do not need to submit a \$50 fingerprint fee. Children who are beneficiaries of TPS and who have reached the age of 14, but who were not previously fingerprinted,

must pay the \$50 fingerprint fee with their application for extension. Furthermore, attesting in part 1 of the Form I-821 to the continued maintenance of the conditions of eligibility will generally preclude the need for supporting documents or evidence. INS, however, reserves the right to request additional information and/or documentation on a case-by-case basis.

Fees: Applicants for re-registration need not submit the \$50 fee along with Form I-821. If the applicant requests employment authorization, he or she must submit a \$120 fee with Form I-765. An applicant who does not seek employment authorization need not submit the \$120 fee, but nonetheless must submit the Form I-765. The applicant may request a fee waiver in accordance with the regulations.

Q. Where should I submit the application for an extension of TPS?

Please do not go to an INS District Office. If applicants go to an INS District Office, they will be instructed to file their application with the INS Service Center that has jurisdiction over their place of residence. The following is a listing of INS Service Centers:

If you live in Connecticut, Delaware, Washington, DC, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia or the Virgin Islands, mail your application and applicable fees to:

**Vermont Service Center
Attn: TPS
75 Lower Welden Street
St. Albans, VT 05479**

If you live in Arizona, California, Guam, Hawaii or Nevada, mail your application and applicable fees to:

**California Service Center
Attn: TPS
P.O. Box 10821
Laguna Niguel, CA 92607-0821**

If you live in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee or Texas, mail your application and applicable fees to:

**Texas Service Center
P.O. Box 850997
Mesquite, TX 75185-0997**

If you live elsewhere in the United States, mail your application and applicable fees to:

**Nebraska Service Center
P.O. Box 87821
Lincoln, NE 68501-7821**

Q. How long will the TPS extension last?

The TPS extension for Salvadorans is effective for a 12-month period, from September 9, 2002 to September 9, 2003.

Q. Specifically, what factors were considered in making the decision to grant a 12-month extension of TPS for Salvadorans?

Since the date of the last extension of El Salvador's TPS designation, the Departments of Justice and State have continued to review conditions in El Salvador. Prior to making a decision, the Attorney General had consultations with the Department of State to determine whether conditions warranting the TPS designation continued to exist.

Despite indications of progress in recovery efforts, the Attorney General determined that environmental and structural damage from the devastating earthquakes persists and that El Salvador remains temporarily unable to handle adequately the return of more than 260,000 nationals.

Upon review of all available information, the Attorney General concluded that a 12-month extension of El Salvador's TPS designation is warranted.

Q. Will Salvadoran nationals protected by TPS be permitted to travel abroad during the TPS period?

Those granted TPS must receive advance permission to return to the United States before traveling abroad. This advance permission is called Advance Parole. Failure to obtain advance parole prior to traveling abroad may result in the withdrawal of your TPS and/or the institution or re-calendar of removal proceedings.

Q. Where may I find forms and additional information?

Information concerning the TPS program for nationals of El Salvador (or aliens having no nationality who last habitually resided in El Salvador) is available at the INS Internet Web site, located at www.ins.gov or the INS National Customer Service Center, at 1-800-375-5283. Applicants may obtain forms from the INS web site or by contacting the INS Forms Line, 1-800-870-3676.