

14

BOSTON

BANKING

CISCO
CHINA
COMMUNITA



DEFINITIONS

You will find some of the following terms used in the booklet with regard to immigration. Below is an explanation for the terms used to help you understand exactly what they mean in the USA. These are USCIS definitions.

Alien - Is a person who is not a citizen or a national of the USA. The term refers to all foreign nationals in the USA, whether they are there temporarily or with permanent resident status. Although this term may seem strange to us, it is frequently used when talking about US immigration procedures.

Citizen - Is a person who owes their loyalty, either through birth or naturalisation, to protection of a given country. A US citizen is entitled to hold a US passport. A Permanent Resident of the US is not a US citizen and cannot hold a US passport.

Form I-9 - Employment Eligibility Verification - An employment form that must be completed by every employer and employee to verify the employee's identity and right to work in the USA

Form I-94 - Arrival and Departure record - This is a document that is issued to every immigrant who enters the USA for a temporary stay and has satisfied US Immigration inspection. This document is stapled in the passport and indicated the amount of time the individual can initially remain in the USA. The form I-94W will be issued to individuals entering the USA under the Visa Waiver Program, B1 and B2 visas.

Green Card - This is a "slang" term for the identity document or alien registration receipt card issued to permanent residents. The card includes the immigrant's photo, fingerprint and signature. At one time the Form I-551 identity card was green, which is how it got its name.

Immediate Relatives - Those immigrants who are exempt from the numerical limitations of immigration to the USA. They are spouses of US citizens, children (under the age of 21) of US citizens, and parents of US citizens age 21 or over.

Immigrant - An immigrant/person who enters the USA on a visa that allows them to live in the USA permanently.

Non-immigrant - Is an immigrant/person who travels to the USA for a temporary stay with the stated intention of returning to their home country.

Permanent Residence - A person who has the right to live permanently in the USA. Individuals are given alien registration cards upon approval of their application for permanent residence and are thereafter called lawful permanent residents or resident aliens.

Petition - Is an application made to the US Citizenship and Immigration service on behalf of an individual to get them a visa or permanent residence in the USA.

Port of entry - A port of place where an individual may apply for admission to the USA.

USCIS - US Citizenship and Immigration Services - One of the three agencies created following the break-up of the former Immigration and Naturalisation Service. USCIS is responsible for adjudication functions within the Department of Homeland Security.

Visa - Is the document needed for entry into the USA. Any Individual who is planning to travel to the USA from many countries as non-immigrants (for a temporary stay) must apply for entry permission at an American Consulate outside the USA.

A stamp (visa) placed in the person's passport permits that individual to board a carrier to the USA. The stamp contains the visa category, a visa number, the location and date that it was issued, the number of entries into the USA for which it can be used and the expiration date. However having a visa placed on your passport does NOT guarantee entry to the USA. The Customs and Border Patrol has full discretion to deny a visa holder (and in some cases green card holders) entry.

VWP - Visa Waiver program.

