

Newsletter

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Welcome to the October issue of our monthly newsletter! This is a complimentary service to clients and friends of the Firm to keep you informed of immigration law developments that may affect you or your organization. Please contact Munsch Hardt's Immigration Team with your comments and questions.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY (DHS) UPDATE:

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced that validity period for Employment Authorization Documents (EADs) issued to asylum applicants will now increase from one year to two years. This change applies to applications pending as of October 5, 2016 and those filed on or after October 5, 2016.

CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION (CBP) NEWS:

- CBP has announced that the I-94 website now allows travelers arriving at a land port of entry to apply and pay for their I-94 online prior to travel. The online I-94 application will collect information that is otherwise collected in-person (e.g., biographic information, passport details, visa details). To finalize the application, the travelers must present themselves at a land port of entry within seven (7) days of their application filing online and submit biometrics (if applicable), and be interviewed by a CBP officer. Benefits of the new process include increased processing efficiency, decreased paper usage, a streamlined CBP inspection process for travelers, and reduced operating costs.
- Beginning November 29, 2016, all P.R. China passport holders carrying a 10-year visa will be required to have a valid Electronic Visa Update System (EVUS) enrollment when traveling to the U.S. EVUS is the online system used by nationals of P.R. China to update biographic information to facilitate travel to the U.S. Enrollment is valid for two years or until the traveler obtains a new passport or visa, whichever comes first. CBP recommends travelers enroll in EVUS as early as possible and at least 72 hours before travel to the U.S.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE (DOS) UPDATE:

- The 2018 Diversity Visa Program registration period started at noon, EST, on October 4, 2016 and will continue through noon, EST, November 7, 2016. During

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