

18.1 DEFINITIONS

Admission Number: An 11-digit number assigned to an alien when he enters the United States. This number is frequently found on the Arrival-Departure Record (Form I-94) and should not be confused with the Alien Registration Number (A-Number) defined below.

Alien: Any person who is not a citizen or national of the United States

Alien File (A-File): The history file containing all data and documentation pertaining to an individual alien. An A-File is created or amended when any one of several INS actions occurs, for example, application for permanent resident status or for a Certificate of Citizenship. Alien Registration Numbers are assigned at the local Field Control Office (FCO) processing the initial action. Each FCO has a set of pre-numbered folder jackets. The lower-numbered folders are used first.

Alien Registration Number (A-Number): A seven or eight-digit number assigned to an alien at the time his Alien File is created.

Alien Registration Receipt Card: An INS document that certifies lawful permanent resident status, commonly called the "green card", older versions may be green or blue/white. Newest versions are now rose/off-pink. It carries the INS form number I-151 or I-551.

Alien Status Verification Index (ASVI): A data base designed for the use of entitlement benefit agencies in verifying alien immigration status in accordance with the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 (IRCA).

Amerasian (Vietnam): Children born in Vietnam to Vietnamese mothers and American fathers and are admitted to the United States under P.L. 100-202 as immigrants, but are entitled to the same social services and assistance benefits as refugees. Spouses, children, and parents or guardians may accompany the alien to the U.S.

Asylee: An alien already in the United States or at a port of entry that is granted asylum in the U.S. Asylum may be granted to those persons who are unable or unwilling to return to their countries of nationality, or to seek the protection of those countries, because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution. This status is covered by section 208 of the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952 (I&NA). (See the definition for refugee, which explains the difference between asylum and refuge in the United States).

Central Index System (CIS): An automated system containing information on aliens. The CIS, from which ASVI is extracted, is the INS's most complete data base on aliens in the U.S.

Certificate of Citizenship: An identity document proving U.S. citizenship.

Certificate of Naturalization: An identity document proving U.S. citizenship.

Change of Nonimmigrant Status: The action of changing a nonimmigrant's classification, e.g., from visitor to student.

Citizen: A person born in a country or who has become a naturalized citizen of that country.

Conditional Entrant: A refugee. See the definition for refugee conditional entrant, which more fully explains this status.

Conditional Permanent Resident: Eligible Legalized Alien (ELA): An alien who has been granted lawful temporary resident status under Section 245A, or Section 210 of the Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCM) of 1986 and who may apply for permanent resident alien status.

Conditional Resident Alien: An alien granted "conditional" resident status based on marriage to a U.S. citizen or national, or a permanent resident alien, which conditional status is removed after two years if INS rules favorably on a petition by the alien for retention of lawful permanent residence. (The alien's children can also be granted this status). During the pendency of any such petition not adjudicated by the end of the two years, the alien can present his/her I-551 and an INS receipt for the filed petition as proof of work authorization.

Cuban-Haitian Entrant: The status afforded to (a) Cubans who entered the United States illegally between April 15, 1980, and October 10, 1980, and to (b) Haitians who entered the country illegally before January 1, 1981. This status is covered by section 520(e) of Public Law 96-422.

Document Verification Request (Form G-845): A form designed for use by entitlement benefit agencies to request secondary verification of alien status from INS under the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986. This is used by the State Office of Income Maintenance for such requests to INS.

Document Alien: An alien in the U.S. who is in possession of valid documents.

Eligible Legalized Alien (ELA): An alien who has been granted lawful temporary resident status under Section 245A or Section 210 of the Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA) of 1986 and who may apply for permanent resident alien status.

ESL (ESOL): English as a second language courses (English to Speakers of other languages).

Family Unit: Provides protection from deportation and eligibility for employment authorization to the spouses and children of aliens who were legalized under IRCA.

Green Card: A slang term describing the Alien Registration Receipt Card (Form I-151 or Form I-551). Many versions of these forms are not green in color. They are currently a rose or salmon color.

Illegal Alien: A foreign national who either entered the U.S. without inspection, entered with fraudulent documentation, or who, after entering legally as a nonimmigrant, violated status and remained in the U.S. without authorization. See the definition for undocumented alien, which is one type of illegal alien.

Immigrant: An alien who has been lawfully afforded the privilege of residing permanently in the U.S. with the right to eventually obtain citizenship. This status allows authorization for work and entitlement benefits. See the definitions for lawful permanent resident alien and permanent resident alien, which are terms used interchangeably with immigrant.

Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS): The federal agency under the Department of Homeland Security that administers immigration law.

Immigration Status: The legal status conferred on an alien by immigration laws.

Immigration Status Verifier (ISV): An INS employee that performs secondary verification duties are the local File Control Offices.

Ineligible Alien: See nonimmigrant

Lawful Permanent Resident Alien (LPRA): An alien who has been lawfully afforded the privilege of residing permanently in the U.S. See the definitions for immigrant and permanent resident alien, which are terms used interchangeably with this term.

Nationality: The state or country to which a person has legal allegiance. Note that the country of birth does not necessarily correspond to the nationality.

Naturalization: The legal act of becoming a citizen, other than birth. A resident alien married to a U.S. born citizen must hold permanent resident alien status for three years before petitioning for naturalization. Also others must hold permanent resident status for five years before petitioning for naturalization.

Non-immigrant: An alien who is permitted to enter the U.S. for a specific purpose and for a limited period of time. Examples include tourists, students and business visitors.

Parolee: An alien, who appears to be inadmissible to the inspecting officer, but who is permitted to enter the U.S. under emergency conditions or because that alien's entry is determined to be in the public interest. Although parolees are required to leave when the conditions supporting their parole cease to exist, they may sometimes adjust immigration status.

Passport: Any travel document issued by a competent authority showing the bearer's origin, identify, and nationality, if any, which is valid for the entry of the bearer into a foreign country.

Permanent Resident Alien: A person that enters the country with an immigrant visa or adjusts his status after entering as a nonimmigrant, refugee, or asylee. Persons with this status are entitled to live and work in the U.S. and collect entitlement benefits, if qualified. See the definitions for immigrant and lawful permanent resident alien, which are terms used interchangeably with this term.

Primary Verification: A query to validate alien documentation using the ASVI system.

Refugee: Any person who is outside his country of nationality who is unable or unwilling to return to that country because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution. Unlike asylees, refugees apply for and receive this status prior to entry into the U.S.

Replenishment Agricultural Worker (RAW): Any alien who is granted temporary or permanent resident status under Section 210A(c) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended by IRCA, based on prior agricultural employment within the United States. The RAW program was implemented during a fiscal year from 1990 - 1993 only upon announcement by the Secretaries of Agriculture and Labor of a shortage of agricultural workers in the United States for that fiscal year.

Secondary Verification: A request to validate alien documentation, after or in lieu of primary verification, using Form G-845. Secondary verification is performed by the ISV using various automated or manual sources. This is completed by the Division of Family Assistance SAVE Coordinator.

Severe Victim of Trafficking and Violence: A person who has been used in severe forms of trafficking in persons. This means sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age; or the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provisions, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.

Special Agricultural Worker (SAW): An alien who has resided in the United States and performed agricultural labor for at least 90 man-days during the one-year period prior to May 1, 1986. This alien may be granted temporary lawful resident alien status. The SAW status is limited to the first 350,000 aliens that apply. This program is covered under section 210(b) of IRCA.

Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlement (SAVE): An automated or manual information-sharing program whereby state agencies may verify the immigration status of alien applicants for entitlement benefits. This verification is completed by the SAVE Coordinator upon request from the ESW/FSW.

Temporary Lawful Resident Alien: An alien granted a one-year period of lawful resident status based on his qualifications under the legalization or SAW programs. The temporary status may be removed after one year, when INS rules favorably or unfavorably on granting permanent lawful resident status to the alien.

Undocumented Alien: An alien in the US without proper documentation. He is in violation of U.S. immigration law. (See also the definition for illegal alien, for a broader explanation of unauthorized aliens in the United States).

United States: Defined in a geographical sense as the continental United States, Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, Guam, U.S. Virgin Islands, and Northern Mariana Islands.