

Mobility: Immigration alert

March 2023

United States

USCIS Announces Mail Delivery Process for Receiving ADIT (I-551) Stamp

Executive summary

On 16 March 2023, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced that lawful permanent residents (LPRs) may receive temporary evidence of their LPR status in the form of an Alien Documentation, Identification, and Telecommunication (ADIT) stamp (also known as an I-551 stamp) by mail rather than scheduling an appointment at a local USCIS field office.

When LPRs require such evidence, they may call the USCIS Contact Center and USCIS will verify whether the LPR meets the criteria for receiving an I-94 with an I-551 stamp without requiring an in-person interview. The officer will consider whether the LPR's identity can be confirmed, the LPR is able to receive UPS or FedEx express mail at their address, and the LPR has a useable photo in USCIS's systems.

Background and analysis

The Form I-551 is the identification number for a permanent resident card (green card). It is proof of an LPR's status to live and work permanently in the United States.

If an LPR's green card is lost, stolen, or destroyed, they may file Form I-90, Application to Replace Permanent Resident Card (Green Card), to replace their green card. In the interim, if the LPR requires proof of valid permanent resident status while awaiting issuance of the replacement card, they may rely on the I-551 stamp instead. Obtaining the I-551 stamp typically requires LPRs to call the USCIS

Contact Center to schedule an interview. Thereafter, they would appear in-person at a USCIS office and explain why they urgently require proof of permanent resident status, such as to accept employment or re-entry after travel abroad of less than one (1) year.

LPRs are entitled to evidence of status and may require temporary evidence of their status in the form of an I-551 stamp if:

- ▶ They do not have their Green Card; or
- ▶ Their Form I-90, Application to Replace Permanent Resident Card (Green Card), Form I-751, Petition to Remove Conditions on Residence, or Form N-400 Application for Naturalization, is still pending adjudication and their Green Card and extension notice have expired

What this means

If the in-person appointment is not required, USCIS will proceed with mailing the LPR a Form I-94 with the I-551 stamp. The Form I-94 with the I-551 stamp is an eligible List A document that may be presented to an employer as proof of identity and work authorization for purposes of completing a Form I-9, valid until the expiration date on the I-551 stamp or one year after the issuance date if the stamp does not contain an expiration date. Examples of how the documents will look if issued in-person v. via mail can be found here: [Temporary Lawful Permanent Residents \(LPR\) Status Documentation | USCIS](#).



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The new process will allow eligible LPRs to receive evidence of their LPR status without needing to appear for an in-person interview, which in turn will reduce the burden on LPRs and increase the availability of USCIS resources at local offices.

We will continue to monitor and review future developments. For additional information, or if you wish to discuss this further, please contact your EY Law LLP professional.

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