



EMAIL BULLETIN

U.S. CITIZENSHIP & IMMIGRATION SERVICES CONTINUES THE MOVE TOWARD ELECTRONIC FILING OF PETITIONS AND BENEFITS APPLICATIONS

Final Dates for Full-Scale Implementation Uncertain

12 January 2006

As a further step toward a more expansive system for the electronic filing *and adjudication* of immigration petitions and benefits applications, U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services (CIS) has published new electronic filing forms pursuant to required publication of notices of proposed information collection. Included among the new forms are “general purpose” forms which collect far more information than is now required for any one petition or application. From the expansive and detailed list of information required on the general purpose form for use in conjunction with other petitions and benefits applications, it is apparent that the CIS seeks to electronically capture and review an individual’s entire immigration history when that individual applies for a benefit or is the beneficiary of a petition for nonimmigrant or immigrant classification.

While the CIS is taking concrete steps toward implementing a more comprehensive electronic filing and adjudication system, the CIS may be months, or possibly even years, away from full implementation of an electronic system for adjudicating benefits applications in accordance with the expectations held by most American consumers. As the U.S. DOL efforts at electronic filing and adjudication of Applications for Permanent Employment Certification have demonstrated, initial efforts at technology and process conversions can be fraught with fits and starts, as well as glitches that must be resolved post-implementation.

Tindall & Foster is prepared for comprehensive electronic filing upon final implementation and has developed, along with our software providers, the capability to integrate T&F databases with government electronic filing forms to ensure efficiency and accuracy of data transfer during the case preparation and filing process. As always, Tindall & Foster is committed to remaining at the forefront of technological capability to facilitate management of the immigration process and to offer our clients each incremental benefit in speed, efficiency and accuracy that the latest technology allows.

Tindall & Foster will continue to monitor CIS efforts to fully implement electronic filing and will provide updated information in future Email Bulletins on CIS electronic filing

options as they become available. Future updates will also be posted on the Tindall & Foster web site at www.tindallfoster.com/Immigration/EmailBulletin/.