

Receipt Delays

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) advises customers that, due to a tremendous increase in the number of applications filed, processing of fee payments and entry of cases into our tracking system is behind schedule. As a result, applicants can expect notices of receipt to be delayed. USCIS is working hard to deal with the increased volume and has published the following frequently asked questions in order to provide additional information to applicants.

- [What is the cause of the receipt delay?](#)

The receipt delay was caused by a significant workload increase, in part based upon filings by individuals attempting to beat a planned fee increase and a significant influx of applications associated with visa availability in the Department of State's July 2007 Visa bulletin. This resulted in an influx of applications and fees that exceeded USCIS' capacity to timely issue receipts and deposit application fees.

- [How does a receipt delay affect my case?](#)

If your case is subject to a receipt delay, this means that USCIS has received your case in its mailroom, but has not yet processed your case. This means that your case information has not been entered into the USCIS case management system and the fee you sent with your application has not yet been deposited. These delays affect USCIS' ability to issue a receipt notice to you. It may also affect the overall time it will take us to make a decision on your application.

- [Is this why I haven't received my receipt notice?](#)

Yes, it could be. Typically, customers should receive receipt notices within 2 weeks of USCIS receiving their applications. The receipt delay may cause this to take up to 15 weeks for customers to receive receipt notices. USCIS continues to monitor the current intake of applications and will identify application processing dates on its website. To find the latest information, please see the USCIS Application and Receipting Update at <http://www.uscis.gov/receiptingtimes>.

- [Is USCIS prioritizing certain application\(s\) during the receipting process?](#)

Yes. The *Application to Adjust Status* (I-485) will have first priority because USCIS needs to ensure that these applications are receipted in a timeframe that would allow processing of an application for an *Employment Authorization Document* (EAD) within 90 days of filing as mandated by law [8 CFR 247a.13(d)]. Our second priority will be to receipt the *Application for Naturalization* (N-400) so that we can minimize any delays in obtaining citizenship.

- [What will USCIS do to ensure employment authorization documents are processed within 90 days?](#)

USCIS is working to ensure all *Applications for Adjustment of Status* (I-485) are receipted and any accompanying applications for employment authorization

documents (EADs) are processed within 90 days. USCIS is realigning its resources to meet this deadline.

- [How is USCIS planning to address this receipting delay?](#)

USCIS is realigning its resources to eliminate the receipt delay as quickly as possible. This effort includes increasing the number of contract employees, as well as requiring significant mandatory overtime and shift work. USCIS also has temporarily detailed Government staff to centers that have been affected the most by the large influx of cases.

- [If I filed before the new fee change and my application is rejected, do I need to pay the new higher fee?](#)

Yes, unless USCIS rejected your application in error. If you think that your application was rejected in error, you should resubmit your original application, your original check or money order, the cover letter that was included with your returned application and an explanation of the reason why you believe the rejection was in error.

- [How do I find out if my application is a part of the receipting delay?](#)

USCIS has developed a web page at <http://www.uscis.gov/receiptingtimes> specifically to address any receipt delay concerns. This page provides general information about your application type. In addition, USCIS representatives are available at the National Customer Service Center (1-800-375-5283) to assist callers with general information about the process.

- [Will this affect my ability to travel?](#)

Possibly, if you leave the country prior to the completion of the receipting process and do not have the appropriate travel documents, you may have difficulty returning to the United States.