U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

*Office of Communications*

# News Release

May 11, 2010

## USCIS To Issue Redesigned Green Card

*State-of-the-Art Technology Makes New Card More Secure*

**WASHINGTON** — U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced today that it has redesigned the Permanent Resident Card—commonly known as the "Green Card"—to incorporate several major new security features. The Green Card redesign is the latest advance in USCIS's ongoing efforts to deter immigration fraud. State-of-the-art technology incorporated into the new card prevents counterfeiting, obstructs tampering, and facilitates quick and accurate authentication. Beginning today, USCIS will issue all Green Cards in the new, more secure format.

"Redesigning the Green Card is a major achievement for USCIS," said Director Alejandro Mayorkas. "The new security technology makes a critical contribution to the integrity of the immigration system."

The enhanced features will better serve law enforcement, employers, and immigrants, all of whom look to the Green Card as definitive proof of authorization to live and work in the United States. Among the benefits of the redesign: Secure optical media will store biometrics for rapid and reliable identification of the card holder. Holographic images, laser engraved fingerprints, and high resolution micro-images will make the card nearly impossible to reproduce. Tighter integration of the card design with personalized elements will make it difficult to alter the card if stolen. Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) capability will allow Customs and Border Protection officers at ports of entry to read the card from a distance and compare it immediately to file data. Finally, a preprinted return address will enable the easy return of a lost card to USCIS.

In keeping with the Permanent Resident Card's nickname, it will now be colored green for easy recognition. USCIS will replace Green Cards already in circulation as individuals apply for renewal or replacement.

For more information on permanent residency and other immigration benefits, visit www.uscis.gov, or call USCIS's National Customer Service Center at (800) 375-5283.

– USCIS –

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# Fact Sheet

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**Introduction**

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**Card Features**

| | Previous | New |
|---|---|---|
| **Front of Card** | | |
| Optical Variable Ink | | ✓ |
| Holographic Image | ✓ | ✓ |
| Embedded Radio Frequency Identification Device (RFID) | | ✓ |
| Laser Engraved Fingerprint | | ✓ |
| Unique Background Design | ✓ | ✓ |
| **Back of Card** | | |
| Tamper Resistant Border | | ✓ |
| Optical Media Stores All Digital Files, Including Biometrics | ✓ | ✓ |
| Micro-image, High Resolution Pictures of State Flags and U.S. Presidents | | ✓ |

**Features of note:**

- ✓ Redesign results from extensive collaboration with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Screening Coordination Office, the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Forensic Document Laboratory, and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP).
- ✓ Special ink creates color shifts in visual designs (e.g., eagle's head).
- ✓ Fine-lined artwork and complex architecture incorporate patterns that are nearly impossible to reproduce.
- ✓ Card materials resist tampering. Attempted tampering becomes immediately visible to the naked eye.
- ✓ Standard card design and personalized features are integrated to deter fraud attempts, e.g., alteration of the photograph.
- ✓ Greater detail in photograph makes for easier identification of the bearer.
- ✓ Ultra-violet technology and tactile clues allow accurate card authentication at border crossings.
- ✓ Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) allows inspectors to read unique, 192-bit serial number (192-bits) from a distance and link the information to the personal data on file.
- ✓ Personalized return address on back of card doubles as security feature and as customer-service enhancement to facilitate easy return of lost cards to USCIS.
- ✓ In keeping with its nickname, redesigned Permanent Resident Card is now green.

-USCIS-

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# Questions and Answers

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**Questions and Answers**

**Q. What is a Permanent Resident Card, or "Green Card"?**
*A.* A Green Card is proof of authorization to live and work in the United States on a permanent basis. It also is evidence of registration in accordance with U.S. immigration laws. Newly issued Green Cards are valid for ten years for lawful permanent residents and two years for conditional residents. The permanent resident must renew his or her card each time it expires.

**Q. Why did USCIS redesign the Green Card?**
A. The Green Card redesign is the latest advance in USCIS's ongoing efforts to deter immigration fraud. State-of-the-art technology prevents counterfeiting, obstructs tampering, and facilitates quick and accurate authentication of the card. The enhanced features will better serve law enforcement, employers, and immigrants, all of whom look to the Green Card as definitive proof of authorization to live and work in the United States.

**Q. What major improvements has USCIS included in the redesigned Green Card?**
A. Secure optical media store biometrics for rapid and reliable identification of the card holder. Holographic images, laser engraved fingerprints, and high resolution micro-images make the card nearly impossible to reproduce. Tighter integration of the card design with personalized elements makes it difficult to alter the card if stolen. Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) capability allows Customs and Border Protection officers at ports of entry to read the card from a distance and compare it immediately to file data. Finally, a preprinted return address enables the quick and easy return of a lost card to USCIS.

**Q. Is the Permanent Resident Card actually green, as its nickname suggests?**
A. After the redesign, the card is now colored green.

**Q. Who will receive the redesigned Green Card?**
*A.* Beginning May 11, 2010, USCIS will issue all Green Cards in the new, more secure format. Recipients of the redesigned card will include those newly approved for lawful permanent residency, as well as those who have sought a renewal or replacement card.

**Q. What happens to existing Green Cards with the old design?**
*A.* Some existing Green Cards bear an expiration date, and those cards will remain valid until they expire. Holders of those cards will receive the redesigned version when seeking a renewal or replacement.

Other existing Green Cards have no expiration date, and those cards remain valid. USCIS recommends that holders of cards without an expiration date apply to replace their cards with the redesigned version.

The current cost of renewing or replacing a Green Card is $370. Additionally, eligible permanent residents may choose to explore becoming a naturalized U.S. citizen. For more information on eligibility for naturalization, go to www.uscis.gov/citizenship.

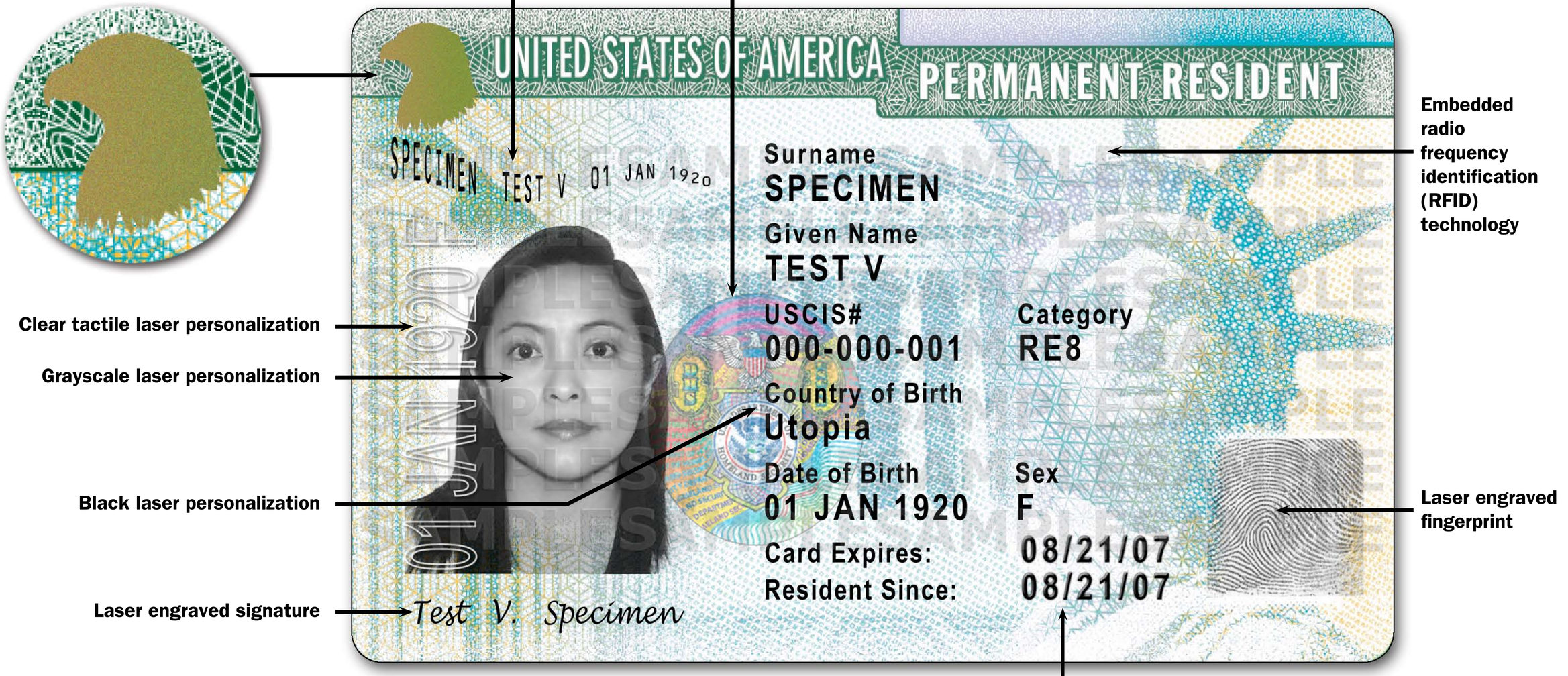
**Q. How does a lawful permanent resident replace a Green Card, if lost or damaged?**
*A.* A lawful permanent resident may seek a replacement card by filing a Form I-90, Application to Replace Permanent Resident Card. The Form I-90 and instructions are available online at http://www.uscis.gov/forms. If outside the United States, a lawful permanent resident should contact the nearest U.S. consulate, USCIS office, or U.S. port of entry before attempting to file a Form I-90.

– USCIS –

Color-shifting ink (gold to green)

Laser engraved "Swoosh"

Infogram (holographic image)




Embedded radio frequency identification (RFID) technology

Clear tactile laser personalization

Grayscale laser personalization

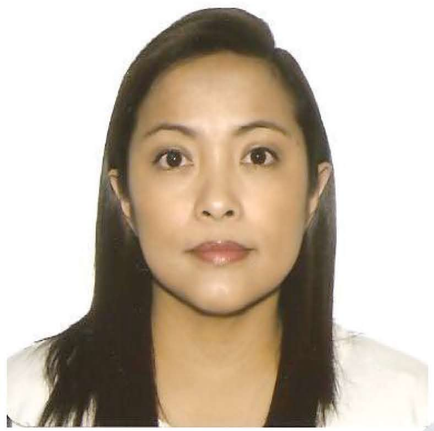
Black laser personalization

Laser engraved fingerprint

Laser engraved signature

Black tactile laser personalization

Unique background design



High resolution
digital photograph

Grayscale
fingerprint image

Laser engraved individual
card serial number

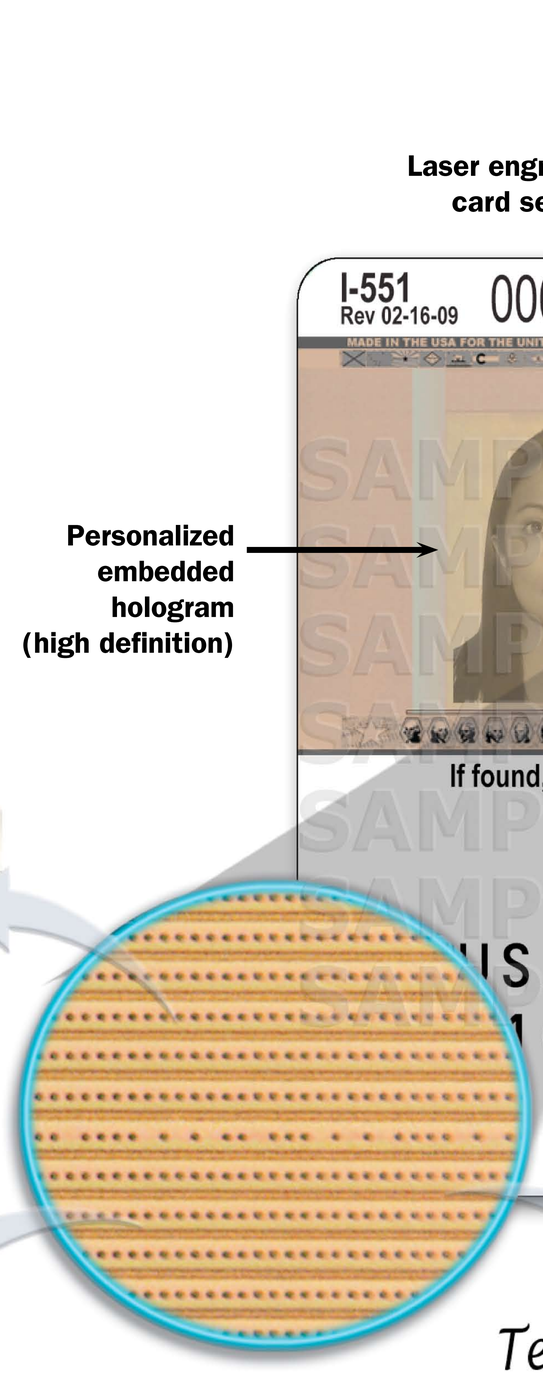
Laser engraved
serial barcode

Personalized
embedded
hologram
(high definition)

Optical
stripe

Laser
engraved
“if found”
address

Laser
engraved
ICAO
compliant
OCR-B text






Test V. Specimen

Optical media stores
all digital files,
including biometrics

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