## UNITED STATES PASSPORT

A UNITED STATES PASSPORT is a document that is issued by the State Department to persons who have established citizenship in the United States by birth, naturalization or derivation. The primary purpose of the passport is to facilitate travel to foreign countries by establishing U.S. citizenship and acting as a vehicle to display any appropriate visas and/or entry/exit stamps that may be necessary.

Passports are also very reliable documents that may be used within the United States to establish citizenship, identity and employment authorization.



**NOTE**: There are several different versions of the U.S. passport that are currently valid and vary from the 1998 version illustrated above.

Although there have been many different revisions of the CERTIFICATE OF NATURALIZATION, there are two main versions issued by the INS. The more recent bears a gold embossed Great Seal of the United States in the top center portion. Earlier versions had gray or beige background designs and did not contain the embossed seal. Regardless, all certificates of naturalization were printed on watermarked paper. The watermark design of the Department of Justice seal and the letters "USA" becomes visible when this version of the document is held up to a strong light.





(Watermark)

The current revision of the CERTIFICATE OF NATURALIZATION is similar to the previous version. It too contains a gold embossed Great Seal of the United States in the top center portion. However, the watermark design has been changed to the emblem of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) now issues these certificates.





(Watermark)

## **ALIEN REGISTRATION RECEIPT CARDS**

Forms I-151 and I-551 are issued to aliens who have been granted permanent resident status in the United States. They retain this status while in this country. The bearer is required to have this card in his/her possession at all times.

The first **ALIEN REGISTRATION RECEIPT CARD**, Form I-151, was introduced in 1946. Through 18 years of various revisions, it remained primarily green in color, causing it to become known as a "Green Card". This term is still used commonly, although the cards have not been "Green" since 1959. The I-151 cards contained no expiration date and were only required to be renewed if the recipient was under the age of 14 at the time of issuance, or if the card was lost or stolen.





**NOTE**: As of March 20, 1996, the Form I-151 is no longer acceptable as evidence of permanent residence.

The **RESIDENT ALIEN CARD**, Form I-551, was introduced in January 1977 and phased in over a period of time. In addition to the photograph, the I-551 contains the bearer's signature and fingerprint. As with the older I-151 cards, this version I-551 generally does not contain an expiration date.



Form I-551

The **RESIDENT ALIEN CARD**, Form I-551, was revised in August 1989. This version was the first Alien Registration Card to contain an expiration date on every card. These cards were usually valid for ten years from the date of issue. The expiration date indicates when the card expires and must be renewed. It does **NOT** indicate that the alien's status has expired. The card was modified in January 1992 when a white box was added behind the fingerprint.



Form I-551 (August 1989)



Form I-551 (January 1992)

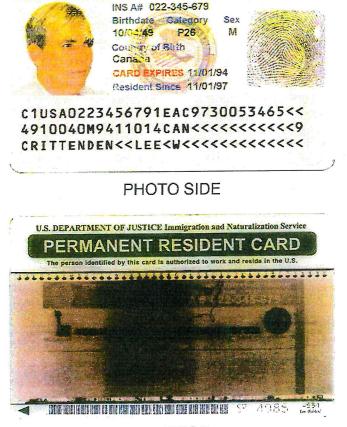


Reverse

The PERMANENT RESIDENT CARD, Form I-551, was introduced in December 1997. Noticeable differences on the front of the card include a change of card title from RESIDENT ALIEN CARD to PERMANENT RESIDENT CARD, a three-line machine readable zone and the addition of a hologram.

PERMANENT RESIDENT CARD

NAME CRITTENDEN, LEE W.



REVERSE

The Optical Memory Stripe on the reverse contains encoded cardholder information as well as a personalized etching which depicts the bearer's photo, name, signature, date of birth, alien registration number, card expiration date and card number.

The latest version of the **PERMANENT RESIDENT CARD**, Form I-551, was introduced in November 2004. It retains many of the same features of the previous version while updating the design. The card now shows the seal of the Department of Homeland Security and contains a more detailed hologram on the front of the card.



## REVERSE

The Optical Memory Stripe on the reverse retains the same features as the previous card version. The stripe contains encoded cardholder information on the card bearer. Each card is personalized with an etching showing the bearer's photo, name, signature, date of birth, alien registration number, card expiration date and card number.

This **EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION DOCUMENT**, Form I-688B, was introduced in November 1989 and is issued to aliens who have been granted permission to be employed in the U.S. for a specific period of time. The card was produced originally with a Polaroid process and has interlocking gold lines across the front.

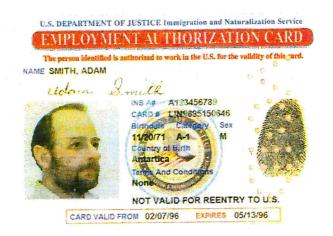


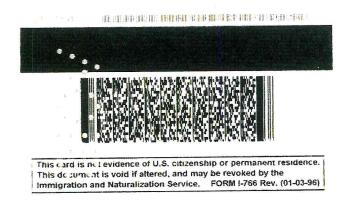
The person identified on the reverse of this card is authorized to engage in employment in the United States pursuant to Section 274A of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended, during the period of validity of the card and in accordance with the restricting terms stated on the reverse of the card.

This document is <u>VOID</u> if altered and may be revoked pursuant to 8 CFR 274a. This document is not evidence of citizenship or permanent residence in the United States. If this dard is found, please return to the nearest office of the immigration and Naturalization Service.

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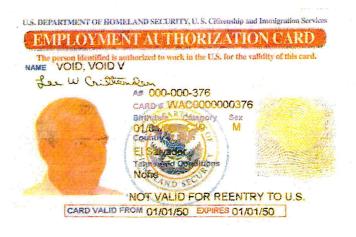
In January 1997, INS began issuing a new **EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION CARD**, Form I-766. This version is a credit card-sized document. The front of the card bears the photograph, fingerprint and signature of the rightful holder. The reverse contains a standard bar code, magnetic strip, and a two-dimensional bar code which contains unique card, biographic and biometric data.





Form I-766 (January 1997)

An updated **EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION CARD**, Form I-766, was introduced in May 2004. The new card is similar in appearance to the previous revision, with some modifications to the card design. The front of the document continues to show the photograph, fingerprint and signature of the bearer beneath a holographic film, but now displays the DHS seal. The reverse has a standard bar code, magnetic strip, and a two-dimensional bar code containing encoded data.





Form I-766 (May 2004)

A **REENTRY PERMIT**, Form I-327, is issued to a permanent resident alien. The document allows the bearer to reenter the United States and is valid for a period of two years. It is not renewable.

The reentry permit contains a digitized photograph and many of the security features of a passport. Visas and entry/exit stamps may be applied to the blank pages.



Form I-327

A **REFUGEE TRAVEL DOCUMENT**, Form I-571, is similar to the Reentry Permit, but it is used by aliens who have been classified as refugees or asylees. The security features are the same as those in the Reentry Permit, but the Refugee Travel Document is usually valid for only one year.



The TRAVEL DOCUMENT was introduced in September 2003 and replaces the separate Reentry Permit Form I-327 and Refugee Travel Document Form I-571 with a single booklet used for both. Notations above and below the photo indicate the document type.





There are four types of **NON-IMMIGRANT VISAS**. The non-machine readable visa is printed with a multicolored ribbon while the machine readable visas are stickers which are applied to the passport page. Visas are used for entry purposes and must be valid on the date of entry into the U.S. It is **not** necessary for the visa to be valid after entry.









**IMMIGRANT VISAS** are used by people coming to live in the United States. Older versions of the immigrant visa were collected at the time entry, and the immigrants were given a rubber **ADIT STAMP** ("Processed for I-551...") to serve as evidence of permanent residence until they received their residence cards.

In 2003 the Department of State began to issue immigrant visas on the same foils used for non-immigrant visas. These foils remain in the bearer's passport after entry. Initial versions were endorsed with an ADIT stamp.



Later versions contain the endorsement printed directly onto the visa foil. The validity begins on the date the person enters the United States.



When an alien has been granted admission into the U.S. by a U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Inspector at an authorized Port of Entry, he/she will be issued an **ARRIVAL/DEPARTURE RECORD**, Form I-94, the bottom portion of which is stapled to a page in the alien's passport. This document explains how long the bearer may remain in the U.S. and the terms of admission.

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Port:	Departure Record
	Departure Record
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Form I-94

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Many ports of entry along the land borders with Canada and Mexico began using a modified **Form CBP I-94A** in late 2004. The new form is computer generated, with both the bearer's personal information and the terms of admission printed onto the form instead of written by hand.

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Form CBP I-94A

The U.S. Department of State introduced a new **BORDER CROSSER CARD**, Form DSP-150 in May 1998. The front of the card has a three line machine readable zone and a hologram. Bearers of this card are **not entitled to work** in the U.S.



**FRONT** 



**REVERSE** 

The Optical Memory Stripe contains encoded cardholder information as well as a personalized etching which depicts the bearer's photo, name, date of birth, and card expiration date.