

18-Month Extension of TPS for El Salvador with Automatic 6-Month Extension for Employment Authorization

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U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services announced Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for eligible nationals of El Salvador has been extended from September 9, 2010, through March 9, 2012. Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano has determined an 18-month extension is warranted because the conditions that prompted the 2001 TPS designation of El Salvador - a series of severe earthquakes - continue to temporarily prevent El Salvador from adequately handling the return of its nationals. Under the extension, individuals who have been granted TPS are eligible to re-register and maintain their status for an additional 18 months. To maintain TPS status, Salvadoran TPS beneficiaries must re-register during the re-registration period from July 9 until September 7, 2010. It is important to re-register as soon as the re-registration period opens to allow sufficient time for USCIS to complete all the routine background checks and further application processing.

TPS does not apply to Salvadoran nationals who first entered the United States after February 13, 2001.

USCIS will issue a new Employment Authorization Document (EAD) to eligible TPS beneficiaries who timely re-register and apply for EADs. However, USCIS will automatically extend the validity of existing EADs held by Salvadoran TPS beneficiaries for six months, through March 9, 2011. This automatic extension will allow sufficient time for eligible TPS beneficiaries to re-register and receive an EAD without any lapse in employment authorization.