

Frequently Asked Questions regarding current long term business permits

Question: Why is the deadline to submit long term business renewal applications set for August 21, 2009?

Answer: The U.S. Government will take over the administration of immigration matters on November 28, 2009. In order to dispose of all renewal applications by this date, the Department of Commerce needs at least a 90 day period to review all submitted applications.

Question: Do I have to renew my long term business permit now if it does not expire until after November 28, 2009?

Answer: No you are not required to submit your renewal application within the established deadline set by Commerce.

Question: If my permit does not expire until January 2010, can I still submit my application on August 21, 2009?

Answer: Yes you can submit your application several months prior to the expiration. The law allows for the submission of renewal applications at least 90 days prior to the expiration of your permit.

Question: If my permit expires in August 2010, can I submit my renewal application on August 21, 2009?



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Answer: Yes you can. Similar to the answer above, the law allows for the submission of renewal applications at least 90 days prior to the expiration of your permit.

Question: On the preceding two cases above, how will the expiration of my permit be treated?

Answer: Approved renewal applications will be given two years from the expiration date of the permit or a period not to exceed November 27, 2011, which ever comes first.

Question: Why are all permit renewals subject to expire on November 27, 2011?

Answer: Public Law 110-229 provides for the lawful presence of foreign investors previously granted by the CNMI for two years after the beginning of the transition period. Since the federal government will officially take over immigration on November 28, 2009, the two year transition period will end on November 28, 2011.

Question: If I submitted my application 6 months in advance, will I still be subject to the \$1,000 renewal fee?

Answer: No you will not. If the expiration of your permit falls within less than the two year period when November 27, 2011 rolls around, you will only be subject to a prorated renewal fee. For example, if your renewed permit only allows you a period of one year until November 27, 2011, you will only be subject to pay a \$500 fee or half the renewal fee.

Question: If I fall under the \$50,000 investment threshold, am I subject to the August 21, 2009 deadline?

Answer: No you are not. You will be allowed to submit your renewal applications not later than October 15, 2009. We encourage you, however, to submit your applications with complete documentation requirements as soon possible.