



## U.S. IMMIGRATION TALK

### Definition of Terms

Before proceeding onward through this guide, it is best to define certain terms that will be used throughout.

#### Alien

Anyone who is not a U.S. citizen.

#### Beneficiary

The alien artist or personnel of an alien group who will be touring with the visa being applied for.

#### Form I-129

The primary INS form used for a Petition for a Non-Immigrant Worker. It is filled out by the petitioner. It is used for all classifications described in this guide.

The I-129 includes:

- two pages (seven parts) of general information regarding the petitioner and the beneficiary;
- one Supplement for beneficiary information for petitions with two or more beneficiaries;
- one Supplement titled "O and P Classification."

See "The Petition."

**Warning:** The INS instructions for filing the I-129 do not include a description of the P-1 or P-3 classifications, as the last update to this document was made in 1990.

#### New: Premium Processing Service (PPS)

**Form I-907:** This is the new Premium Processing Service (PPS) form. In effect as of June 1, 2001, it is used for expedited processing, with a fee of US\$1,000 per petition. With PPS, the INS guarantees adjudication by an INS service center within 15 calendar days of the receipt of the petition by the INS or your money back. It is either sent with the original petition or it can be sent separately. For more information on the PPS, see "The Petition" and "Frequently Asked Questions."

For rulings on the PPS and INS thinking behind it, and to download Form I-907, go to the USINS Web site.

#### Form I-797 Notice of Action

The I-797 is the *Notice of Action*. After receiving a petition, the INS will send an I-797 *Receipt Notice*, followed by an *Approval Notice*, a *Denial*, or a *Request for further information*. The I-797 will state the classification, the dates of intended employment, the petitioner and the beneficiaries. The I-797 will have a Receipt Number beginning with the three-letter INS service center code.

**TIP**  
Keep a record of all I-797 Approval Notices for future petitions.

The I-797 is **not your visa** (see "Visa" below). It is simply permission for an alien to now go and apply for a visa at a U.S. embassy or consulate. If, however, you are a **Canadian** national, the I-797, together with a valid passport, is all that is required at a port of entry (POE) or pre-flight inspection. See the section "You're Approved — Now What?"