



Questions and Answers

USCIS Europe, Middle East and Africa District and Rome Field Office Meeting with American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) April 30, 2015

Overview

On April 30, 2015, the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Europe, Middle East and Africa (EMEA District) and Rome Field Office hosted an engagement with AILA representatives. During this meeting, USCIS addressed questions related to general operations, communications, adoptions, Forms I-407, Forms I-130, and refugee processing among other topics. The information below provides an overview of the questions presented by AILA and the responses provided by USCIS.

Questions and Answers

General Operations

1. Question

How many people (local staff and USCIS staff) work at:

- a. The USCIS EMEA District Office?

Response: Please see our staffing charts available on our [public website](http://www.uscis.gov) at www.uscis.gov. Select the Directorates and Programs tab on the left, then select the Refugee, Asylum and International Operations Directorate. After selecting International Operations, scroll down under International Offices and select the Europe, Middle East, and Africa (EMEA) District to see the district office and all EMEA field office staffing charts, which include the number of staff at each office.

- b. The USCIS Rome Field Office?

Response: See answer to 1.a. above.

2. Question

Are there any foreseeable staffing changes for either office?

Response: The USCIS Rome Field Office has one Overseas Adjudications Officer (OAO) vacancy we anticipate filling in 2015. Other offices in the EMEA District have OAO vacancies or will have upcoming vacancies as staff return to the US at the end of their overseas tours.

3. Question

During the AILA/USCIS International Operations (IO) meeting in December 2014, it was mentioned that due to security concerns, only the Field Office Director is working at the USCIS Nairobi field office. Please advise on the current staffing situation at that office.

Response: Currently, Nairobi (NBO) has a staff of four: One Field Office Director and three locally employed staff. USCIS regularly evaluates its presence in NBO and sends staff to NBO on a temporary basis, as needed.

4. Question

Are there any other offices in the EMEA District with similar issues due to regional unrest, such as the Amman field office?

Response: No.

5. Question

What is the biggest challenge facing the USCIS Rome Field Office and USCIS EMEA District?

Response: Overall, the USCIS Rome Field Office has not faced any specific challenges. For the EMEA District: Ensuring appropriate coverage for all refugee circuit rides given the expansive geographical jurisdiction of the district.

6. Question

AILA understands that the USCIS field offices generally utilize the State Department payment options for filing petitions.¹ On several of the USCIS field office websites, it lists that a postal money order or cashier's check can be used to pay filing fees. Please clarify if the money order or cashier's check (where permissible) must be a **U.S.** postal money order or **U.S.** cashier's check (e.g., Accra, Athens, Frankfurt)?²

¹*Agenda International Operations AILA Responses USCIS*, Dec 2014, Q16a, http://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/USCIS/Outreach/PED_Agenda_IO-AILA_11Dec2014_RESPONSES_2.pdf; AILA Doc. No. 15020563, <http://www.aila.org/infonet/uscis-intl-ops-liaison-minnutes-12-11-14>

²*Europe, Middle East & Africa (EMEA) District*, <http://www.uscis.gov/about-us/find-uscis-office/international-offices/europe-middle-east-and-africa-emea-district>; *Ghana – Accra Field Office*, <http://www.uscis.gov/about-us/find-uscis-office/international-offices/ghana-accra-field-office>

Response: The USCIS Rome Field Office accepts cashier's check, money order, or international bank draft, made payable in U.S. dollars to the U.S. Embassy Rome, issued by a U.S. bank or by a U.S. military post office facility; or a cashier's check (assegno circolare) in Euros, issued by an Italian bank, made payable to the U.S. Embassy Rome.

For the rest of EMEA offices:

Accra: U.S. postal money orders

Amman: Only cash or credit is accepted in Amman.

Athens: The cashier in Athens accepts cashier's checks payable either in dollars or euros. A U.S. postal money order is acceptable in dollars.

Frankfurt: The Consulate cashier accepts credit cards, U.S. postal money orders and U.S. bank checks (no personal checks). The bank check must be issued in U.S. dollars and list the address of a U.S. bank on it. Most European banks can issue such a check.

Johannesburg: The Consulate accepts either U.S. dollars, South African Rand, Credit Card, or a South African Bank issued check in a Rand amount. All checks must be made payable to the "United States Disbursing Officer". Personal checks are not accepted.

London: London allows money orders and cashier's checks from any bank. Funds must be paid in U.S. dollars.

Moscow: The consular cashier of the U.S. Embassy accepts cash payments in the form of U.S. dollars, Russian Rubles, or Credit Card payments.

Nairobi: Money orders or cashier's checks are not accepted forms of payment at the US Consulate in Nairobi.

Vienna: Vienna only accepts U.S. money orders and cashier's checks.

7. Question

Please advise on any best practices that AILA members could follow that will assist USCIS EMEA District and/or USCIS Rome Field Office.

Response: For payments submitted to the USCIS Rome Field Office, a separate fee payment must be submitted for each application or petition filed. Cumulative fee payments are not acceptable. Personal checks and checks in U.S. dollars drawn on foreign banks will not be accepted. For the district as a whole, AILA members should ensure that applications and petitions contain required documentation and evidence at the time of filing as indicated on the relevant form instructions.

8. Question

Please provide a current organizational chart for the USCIS EMEA District and the Rome Field Office.

Response: See answer to 1.b. above.

USCIS Communication

9. Question

Please confirm that the best contact information for the USCIS Rome Field office is:

- a. **Telephone:** +39.06.4674.2190 (between the hours of 8:30 and 12:30 Rome time)

Response: The USCIS Rome Field Office may be contacted by telephone at +39-06-4674-2190 between 8:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Rome time. For urgent matters, callers outside of Italy may contact the USCIS Rome Field Office by telephone at +39-06-4674-2286 until 5 p.m. Rome time. The USCIS Rome Field is open Monday - Friday except for U.S. and Italian public holidays.

- b. **E-mail:** USCIS.Rome@uscis.dhs.gov³

Response: The USCIS Rome Field Office may be contacted by E-mail at USCIS.Rome@uscis.dhs.gov for general information or at RomeMilitary.NATZ@uscis.dhs.gov for naturalization and immigration services and benefits information for members of the military and their families.

- c. What is the estimated response time for email inquiries?

Response: The USCIS Rome Field Office will generally respond within three business days.

10. Question

Please advise on e-mail or phone contact details for the USCIS EMEA District office in Rome.

Response: You may contact USCIS.Rome@uscis.dhs.gov and indicate that the message is for the EMEA District Office. Your email will be routed appropriately.

11. Question

The USCIS Field Office in Nairobi has only a general email address (uscis.public@uscis.dhs.gov). Members report that emails have gone unanswered that were sent to that email address. Understanding the decreased staffing in that office, please advise on the best way to contact the USCIS Nairobi field office.

Response: It would be helpful if AILA could provide examples of emails to the Nairobi Field Office that have gone unanswered so that we can follow up with the office to ensure appropriate

³ Italy –Rome Field Office, <http://www.uscis.gov/about-us/find-uscis-office/international-offices/italy-rome-field-office>

and timely responses are provided. Going forward, if an email has been sent to a field office within EMEA and a response has not been received in a timely manner, you may send an email to USCIS.Rome@uscis.dhs.gov and direct the email to the attention of the EMEA District Office. However, please allow the field office sufficient time to address your inquiry first. Also, it is important to remember to file a G-28 to facilitate communication with an attorney or representative.

12. Question

Although the IO field offices generally offer quick and helpful responses to attorney inquiries, there are times when no response is received, despite multiple follow ups. Please advise how attorneys should reach out if emails or phone calls go unanswered.

Response: See answer to question 10 above.

InfoPass Appointments

13. Question

Many field offices offer interviews on particular days.⁴ Are InfoPass appointments available for applicants who do not live in Italy but whose country of residence falls within the Rome Field Office jurisdiction? (e.g., Could an applicant for 319(b) Natz living in Spain schedule an appointment in Rome to obtain fingerprinting services?)

Response: InfoPass appointments are available for customers residing in a country within the USCIS Rome Field Office's jurisdiction outside of Italy. To better assist customers residing outside of Italy we recommend contacting our office in advance to confirm if an appointment is needed or if a certain service is available.

14. Question

Some USCIS field offices in EMEA require InfoPass appointments, while other offices do not. Please advise whether all field offices will be moving to using the InfoPass system, and if so, the timeline on when this will be implemented.

Response: Customers can use INFOPASS to schedule in-person appointments with the USCIS Rome Field Office. All EMEA offices may utilize INFOPASS in the future, but that is still under consideration. Each office must take into account IT-constraints, any Post-specific restrictions, and the needs and capabilities of its particular customer base.

15. Question

⁴ *Id.*

USCIS's May 2012 memo on the role of private attorneys states that an applicant has a right to an attorney in interviews conducted by USCIS International Operations offices abroad.⁵

- a. Are attorneys who have a G-28 on file permitted to attend interviews with their clients at the Rome Field Office?

Response: The policy memorandum provides guidance regarding representation and appearances before USCIS and applies to the adjudication processes of the International Operations Division of the Refugee, Asylum, and International Operations Directorate to include the USCIS Rome Field Office.

- b. At any other field office within the jurisdiction of the EMEA District?

Response: See response to 15 b. as it is applicable to all EMEA field offices.

USCIS Biometrics

16. Question

The various field offices within the EMEA District advise that fingerprinting is available for specific naturalization, adoption and refugee travel document cases. Would the various offices throughout the District (including the Rome Field Office), permit biometrics for re-entry permits or Form I-90 applications?

Response: IO has drafted new field guidance allowing additional discretion for international field offices to collect biometrics for applicants outside the United States who have a pending case stateside. The guidance is generally broad, but directs specific attention to the Form I-131 as it relates to reentry permits and the Form I-90. In most cases, applicants will be required to demonstrate compelling circumstances that led them to depart the United States prior to attending their Application Support Center (ASC) appointment or they will be required to show that returning to the United States for an ASC appointment would create an undue burden. The guidance is currently in the internal agency clearance process with the expectation that it can be implemented later this summer.

USCIS Abandonment of Resident Status (Form I-407)

17. Question

The websites for the various field offices in the EMEA District advise for applicants interested in filing a Form I-407 to contact USCIS directly for further instructions. Please offer some clarification on the overall process and whether it is different between the various USCIS EMEA field offices.

⁵ USCIS Final Memo on the Role of Private Attorneys, AILA Doc. No. 12052940

Response: USCIS guidance effective March 26, 2015, allows applicants to file Form I-407 at USCIS International Offices in person or by mail. We have updated our public website accordingly. Please see the relevant field office’s website or the USCIS I-407 landing page, uscis.gov/i-407, for further information or instructions.

18. Question

USCIS notes that *only* the 2/26/2015 edition of Form I-407 (OMB No. 1615-0130) is approved for use. Can applicants receive same-day processing for adjudication of a Form I-407:

- a. At the Rome Field Office?

Response: See District response below.

- b. Throughout the EMEA District?

Response: Applicants who submit Form I-407 in person at a field office in EMEA generally receive same day processing and are provided a copy of the signed Form I-407. Please refer to the specific field office’s public Web page for further information regarding in-person visits.

19. Question

Would USCIS Rome as well as other EMEA District field offices first require a lawful permanent resident (LPR) who has remained outside of the U.S. for more than one year (usually due to the transfer of his or her U.S. citizen spouse abroad for work) and who has not secured a re-entry permit to file a Form I-407 before filing and being approved for a new I-130, when the family is transferred back the U.S.?

Response: Please refer to the response to question 21 provided by USCIS International Operations to AILA on December 11, 2014. Questions and responses are provided at <http://www.uscis.gov/outreach/notes-previous-engagements/aila-international-operations-meeting>.

20. Question

Many individuals wishing to file an I-407 are also interested in obtaining a “B” visa upon adjudication of the Form I-407. USCIS advises that Form I-407 applications can be filed during an InfoPass appointment, while a “B” visa application requires a scheduled appointment with the Embassy.

- a. Does USCIS in Rome coordinate with State to permit these two applications to happen at the same appointment or at least on the same day, or does USCIS prefer for applicants to first file the Form I-407 at an InfoPass appointment and then apply for a B visa on a separate day with a separate interview?

Response: The USCIS Rome Field Office does not coordinate with Department of State in regard to nonimmigrant visa appointments for customers who file Form I-407. USCIS takes no position on whether a former LPR qualifies for a B visa, or any other nonimmigrant visa.

- b. Would this same process be followed at all EMEA District offices?

Response: Field offices in EMEA do not coordinate with Department of State in regard to nonimmigrant visa appointments for customers who file Form I-407.

21. Question

Previously, the USCIS Mexico City District office indicated that “Each applicant is carefully interviewed to ensure that the applicant knows the ramifications of the relinquishment of U.S. permanent residence.”⁶ The CDJ field office also indicated that the office asks Form I-407 applicants “a series of questions to ensure they fully understand relinquishment of Legal Permanent Resident (LPR) status.”⁷ Please clarify what is involved during this interview process or what series of questions are used.

Response: Any LPR may freely choose to give up LPR status. In general, interviews at the USCIS Rome Field Office ensure that the decision to abandon his or her LPR status is voluntary and the individual understands the ramifications of abandonment of LPR status. IO has drafted new field guidance that was disseminated to field offices simultaneously with the new Form I-407, recently approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). The new guidance streamlines procedures, to the extent possible, across all international field offices.

22. Question

How many Forms I-407 does the Rome Field Office receive a year?

Response: Please refer questions regarding statistics to USCIS International Operations headquarters.

USCIS Petition for Alien Relative (I-130)

23. Question

⁶ AILA USCIS Mexico City District Q&As (4/27/12), Q15, AILA Doc. No. 12050846

⁷ AILA USCIS CDJ Q&As (8/21/12), Q17, AILA Doc. No. 12082448

What are the current processing times from Form I-130 filing to petition approval at the Rome Field Office and at other field offices within the EMEA District?

Response: IO has developed the methodology that will be used for providing our customers with the I-130, I-730, Parole I-131 processing times on the uscis.gov website. IO is in the final stages of implementation and is currently working with other USCIS counterparts (Customer Service Directorate and Office of Production and Quality) to publish the processing times. IO is expecting to complete this project during Q3 of FY2015. After we publish the data, we will be soliciting input on how it is displayed and whether adjustments are required.

24. Question

In general, how long does it take for a case to be transferred to the Embassy from the Rome Field Office or the other EMEA field offices, once the Form I-130 has been approved?

Response: The USCIS Rome Field Office forwards approved visa petitions to the Immigrant Visa Section at the US Consulate in Naples every 3-4 business days. For other field offices in EMEA, the time is generally the same or may occur more frequently if the petition is being forwarded to consular sections that are co-located.

25. Question

Some USCIS field offices (e.g., London & Frankfurt) in the EMEA District permit Form I-130 petition filing via mail or in-person, where other posts (e.g., Moscow) require an in-person appointment.⁸ Please advise on the reason for the differences in procedure.

Response: Please refer to the response provided by USCIS International Operations to AILA on December 11, 2014. Questions and responses are provided [here](#). See question 20.

26. Question

If an appointment for filing is required, will the petitioner be interviewed when submitting the petition or will USCIS schedule an interview separately?

Response: This is determined on a case by case basis, though generally offices in EMEA will speak with the petitioner at the time of in-person filing. If further information or clarification is required, USCIS may call the petitioner and/or beneficiary back into the office.

⁸ *United Kingdom – London Field Office*, <http://www.uscis.gov/about-us/find-uscis-office/international-offices/united-kingdom-london-field-office>; *Russia – Moscow Field Office*, <http://www.uscis.gov/about-us/find-uscis-office/international-offices/russia-moscow-field-office>

27. Question

Some USCIS offices, e.g. Moscow, advise that the Petitioner and Beneficiary should attend the I-130 filing appointment⁹. Please advise if all USCIS EMEA offices prefer for both parties, if possible, to attend or if that request is purely a regional issue.

Response: Please follow the instructions provided by the particular field office.

28. Question

USCIS London and Vienna both offer a checklist for filing an I-130 at their respective office. Could other offices within the EMEA district adopt a similar practice to ensure that the I-130 is filed as quickly as possible with all requisite documents?

Response: We are working on guidance for who may file an I-130 with an international office and will be updating our field office websites accordingly. We anticipate that the guidance will be issued and the updates made during this fiscal year..

29. Question

Understanding that the USC petitioners must be living in-country in order to file the petition locally:

- a. Is there any particular required amount of time that the petitioner must be living in-country before the petition can be filed? [One USCIS office recently removed the requirement for petitioners to be living in-country for at least six months, while another office appears to indicate a year residency is required.] Please advise for the Rome Field Office and other EMEA field offices.

Response: Please see above response to #27.

- b. What if the petitioner has been living outside of the US for more than six months, but has lived in the country where the case would be filed for less than six months (although is permanently living in that location)?

Response: Please see above response to #27.

30. Question

As a result of the limitation on direct filing of immigrant visas (IVs) at posts where no USCIS office is co-located, USCIS permits the State Department to request an exception for filing

⁹ *Russia – Moscow Field Office*, <http://www.uscis.gov/about-us/find-uscis-office/international-offices/russia-moscow-field-office>

directly with post. During a meeting with IO in December 2014, USCIS advised that 481 total requests were made between Dec 2013 and Nov 2014.¹⁰

- a. How many exception requests did the Rome Field Office and other field offices within the EMEA District receive from posts in its jurisdiction?

Response: Please refer questions regarding statistics to USCIS International Operations Headquarters.

- b. How many exception requests were approved by the Rome Field Offices and other field offices in the EMEA District?

Response: Please refer questions regarding statistics to USCIS International Operations Headquarters.

- c. Can you provide information on which State Department posts requested permission to accept processing of I-130s in the Rome Field Office jurisdiction and the number of requests that were granted for those locations during 2014?

Response: DOS in Paris, France; Madrid, Spain, and Rabat, Morocco, submitted requests to USCIS Rome Field Office during 2014 to accept a locally filed Form I-130.

31. Question

What is the most common reason for the direct filing exception request:

- a. at the Rome Field Office?

Response: Short notice of position relocation of the petitioner is the most common circumstance provided by DOS to the USCIS Rome Field Office for requests to accept a locally filed I-130. Please see the [policy memorandum](#) for additional information on the direct filing exception in international locations where USCIS does not have a presence.

- b. at other offices in the EMEA District?

Response: Some examples of the kinds of circumstances that warranted approval have to do with medical emergencies, military emergencies, threats to personal safety, child close to aging out, adopted children and petitioner receiving a job offer in the United States. Please

¹⁰ AILA – International Operations Meeting, Q14, 11 Dec 2014, http://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/USCIS/Outreach/PED_Agenda_IO-AILA_11Dec2014_RESPONSES_2.pdf

see the [policy memorandum](#) for additional information on the direct filing exception in international locations where USCIS does not have a presence.

32. Question

What is the most common reason for denying the filing exception request:

- a. at the Rome Field Office?

Response: In general, those petitioners who are not approved have failed to provide evidence that they or the beneficiaries face exceptional circumstances requiring them to depart to the United States before the case could be processed through the regular domestic procedures.

- b. at other offices in the EMEA District?

Response: In general, those petitioners who are not approved have failed to provide evidence that they or the beneficiaries face exceptional circumstances requiring them to depart to the United States before the case could be processed through the regular domestic procedures.

33. Question

Per the London Field Office website, Form I-360 petitions can also be filed by those living in the U.K.¹¹ Although expressly not stated on other USCIS field office website, please confirm that filing the Form I-360 at the respective field office is permissible, as long as the applicant/petitioner meets the requirements for filing locally.

Response: USCIS international offices may accept Form I-360 to classify an alien as an **Amerasian or Widow/Widower**. Other alien classifications (*Battered or Abused Spouse or Child or a special immigrant*) must be filed in accordance with the Form I-360 filing instructions found on our website at <http://www.uscis.gov/i-360>.

USCIS Refugee Matters

34. Question

Please provide statistics on how many refugees seek admission to the U.S. and the success rate through the Rome Field Office and for the whole of the EMEA District.

Response: Please refer questions regarding statistics to USCIS International Operations headquarters.

¹¹ *United Kingdom – London Field Office*, <http://www.uscis.gov/about-us/find-uscis-office/international-offices/united-kingdom-london-field-office>

35. Question

Does USCIS Rome adjudicate Forms I-730 for applicants living in Italy?

Response: The USCIS Rome Field Office does not adjudicate Form I-730. Form I-730 is filed with and adjudicated at USCIS Service Centers. If the beneficiary resides in Italy, the approved Form I-730 is forwarded to the USCIS Rome Field Office to interview the beneficiary and determine if the beneficiary is eligible to travel to the United States.

36. Question

Do all USCIS field offices adjudicate Forms I-730 for applicants living in-country?

Response: Field Offices in EMEA do not adjudicate Form I-730. Form I-730 is filed with and adjudicated at USCIS Service Centers. If the beneficiary resides in a country where an EMEA field office is present, the approved Form I-730 is forwarded to that office to interview the beneficiary and determine if the beneficiary is eligible to travel to the United States.

USCIS and DOS Adoption

37. Question

Please comment on current processing times for adoption applications filed by U.S. citizens residing abroad

c. at Rome Field Office.

Response: The processing time goal for Form I-600 received by the USCIS Rome Field Office is 45 days.

d. at Other Field Offices in the EMEA District.

Response: The processing time goal for Form I-600 received by USCIS international offices is 45 days.

USCIS Naturalization

38. Question

Understanding that the Form N-400 application must be filed in the U.S., please advise on the processing time for the interview and adjudication (including swearing in):

a. at the Rome Field Office.

Response: The processing time goal for Form N-400 received by the USCIS Rome Field Office is 180 days.

- b. at Other Field Offices in the EMEA District.

Response: The processing time goal for Form N-400 received by USCIS international offices is 180 days.

Embassy U and T Question

39. Question

U and T visa applicants represent a particularly vulnerable population that must be handled in a sensitive and delicate manner. As such, some posts offer special procedures and a special unit. In this regard, are there special procedures for scheduling appointments or submitting documents for U&T visa applicants or their derivatives:

- a. at the Rome Field Office.

Response: The USCIS Rome Field Office does not have special procedures or a special unit in place for U and T visa applicants. USCIS cannot speak to the Consular Section's procedures for U and T visa applicants; please contact the Department of State.

- b. at Other Field Offices in the EMEA District.

Response: Field offices in EMEA do not process T or U visa petitions or derivative petitions. USCIS collects biometrics overseas for a small number of individuals who may be eligible to derive status from T and U visa holders and are located overseas. Applicants for derivative T or U status may contact the appropriate overseas field offices through the established methods of communication as listed on the individual field office's website.

USCIS I-601 Expedited Adjudication Requests

40. Question

According to the USCIS website, Form I-601 applications may still be filed with international offices in limited circumstances. The Form I-601 page in the Forms section of the USCIS website includes two policy memos relating to filing Form I-601 and related Form I-212 applications outside the United States.¹² They offer slightly different criteria, although both

¹² PM-602-0038, *Requests to Expedite Adjudication of Form I-601, Application for Waiver of Grounds of Inadmissibility, filed by individuals outside the United States; Adjudicator's Field Manual (AFM) Update AD11-19*, May 9, 2011, http://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/USCIS/Laws/Memoranda/2011/May/Expedited_I-601_PM_Approved_5-9-11.pdf; PM-602-0062, *Exceptions for Permitting the Filing of Form I-601, Application for Waiver of Grounds of Inadmissibility, and Any Associated Form I-212, Application for Permission to Reapply for Admission into the United States After Deportation or Removal, at International USCIS Offices*, May 31, 2012,

indicate that their lists are not exhaustive. Are both of these memos indicative of current guidance?

Response: Current USCIS guidance for Form I-601 processing by a USCIS international office due to exceptional and compelling humanitarian reasons is provided in PM-602-0038.1, *Requests to Expedite Adjudication of Form I-601, Application for Waiver of Grounds of Inadmissibility, Filed by Individuals Outside the United States; Update to Adjudicator's Field Manual (AFM) Chapter 41.7 and Appendix 41-5 (AFM Update AD12-09)*, dated June 6, 2012, and PM-602-0062.1, *Exceptions for Permitting the Filing of Form I-601, Application for Waiver of Grounds of Inadmissibility, and any associated Form I-212, Application for Permission to Reapply for Admission into the United States After Deportation or Removal, at International USCIS Offices*, dated November 30, 2012.

PM-602-0038.1 and PM-602-0062.1 are found on the USCIS website at <http://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/USCIS/Laws/Memoranda/2012/June%202012/Revised%20Expedited%20I-601%20PM.pdf> and <http://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/USCIS/Laws/Memoranda/2012/December/Revised%20I-601%20Centralization%20Exception%20PM%20.pdf>

41. Question

Has USCIS approved any locally filed expedited Form I-601 requests for the Rome Field Office or for the other field offices in the EMEA District? If so, how many in 2014?

Response: Please refer questions regarding statistics to USCIS International Operations Headquarters.

USCIS Transportation Letters

42. Question

Some USCIS field offices abroad assist with transportation letters (Accra & Vienna), while other offices advise to contact CBP or ICE (Nairobi & Athens). As such, obtaining instructions on how to request the transportation letter, along with a list of the requisite documents, can be quite time consuming and difficult. If post has a CBP presence, will that CBP office always be responsible for Transportation Letters?

Response: The public website of each of the EMEA field offices contains instructions regarding transportation letters, depending on local procedures. Please consult the appropriate field office's website for further information.

43. Question

In addition to a copy of the stolen Green Card and a police report, what other documents should the applicant obtain prior to contacting the appropriate USCIS office?

<https://web.archive.org/web/20131130110047/http://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/USCIS/Outreach/Feedback%20Opportunities/Interim%20Guidance%20for%20Comment/i-601-centralization-exception.pdf>

Response: Applicants should contact the agency/office that handles transportation letters in that location for further instructions. In general, the applicant should provide a police report, if available for the stolen green card, a copy of the card if available, and other acceptable identification.

44. Question

In general, how quickly after submission of all necessary documents are transportation letters ready for use by the applicant?

a. Rome Field Office

Response: In most cases, the CBP office at the US Embassy Rome issues transportation letters on the day of the scheduled appointment.

b. Other Field Offices in the EMEA District

Response: Applicants should contact the agency/office that handles transportation letters in that location regarding processing times.

45. Question

Is an issuance possible if the applicant is outside of the U.S. more than one year? (For instance, there may have been an unexpected issue, such as a medical condition, arise requiring the individual to remain in Italy longer than originally planned.)

a. Rome Field Office

Response: If an LPR has been outside of the United States for more than 364 days without a Permit to Reenter the United States, the person cannot be issued a transportation letter. An LPR who has remained outside the United States for more than 364 days without a valid Reentry Permit, or beyond the validity of a Reentry Permit, may be eligible to apply for returning resident status with the Department of State. This rule does not apply to military or federal employees on official orders.

b. Other Field Offices in the EMEA District

Response: See answer to 44(a) above.