



December 9, 2022

PA-2022-26

## Policy Alert

SUBJECT: Extension of Permanent Resident Card for Naturalization Applicants

### Purpose

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is issuing policy guidance in the [USCIS Policy Manual](#) to provide that USCIS may automatically extend the validity of a Permanent Resident Card (PRC) (Form I-551) through an Application for Naturalization ([Form N-400](#)) receipt notice, without regard to whether the applicant has filed an Application to Replace Permanent Resident Card ([Form I-90](#)).

### Background

USCIS issues a PRC to each noncitizen who has been admitted for permanent residence as evidence of their lawful permanent resident (LPR) status. LPRs 18 years of age and over are required to have their PRC in their possession as evidence of their status.<sup>1</sup>

If the PRC is expired or the LPR has lost the card, the LPR generally must file a [Form I-90](#). Currently, naturalization applicants with an expired PRC must file Form I-90 or apply for naturalization at least 6 months before the PRC expires to receive an Alien Documentation, Identification and Telecommunication (ADIT) stamp in their passport as proof of LPR status.

USCIS received comments from the public requesting an automatic extension of PRCs due to the current processing times for naturalization.<sup>2</sup> In response to the comments, USCIS is updating language on its [Form N-400](#) receipt Notice of Action (Form I-797) to include an automatic extension of PRCs for 24 months from the “Card Expires” date listed on the PRC and updating the related policy.<sup>3</sup>

USCIS further believes that this policy allows greater flexibility and efficiency by reducing the number of ADIT stamp appointments in field offices, reducing the number of Form I-90s filed, and reducing the number of inquiries, which allows for these resources to be focused on other immigration benefit adjudications.

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<sup>1</sup> See [INA 264\(e\)](#).

<sup>2</sup> On April 19, 2021, USCIS issued the Identifying Barriers Across U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Benefits and Services; Request for Public Input, to seek public opinion regarding how to reduce administrative barriers and burdens that impede access to immigration benefits. See [86 FR 20398](#) (Apr. 19, 2021).

<sup>3</sup> USCIS already provides extensions on the receipt notices for PRCs for noncitizens with a pending Petition to Remove Conditions on Residence ([Form I-751](#)) or [Form I-90](#).

Presentation of the [Form N-400](#) receipt notice along with the expired PRC is valid, unexpired evidence of LPR status, as well as identity and employment authorization under List A of Employment Eligibility Verification ([Form I-9](#)), if presented before the expiration of the 24-month extension period provided in the notice.

This guidance, contained in Volume 12 of the Policy Manual, is effective December 12, 2022 and applies to all applications filed on or after December 12, 2022. The guidance contained in the Policy Manual is controlling and supersedes any related prior guidance.

### **Policy Highlights**

- Explains that, beginning December 12, 2022, a Form N-400 receipt notice provides an automatic 24-month extension of the PRC and serves as valid, unexpired evidence of LPR status, when presented with the LPR's expired PRC.
- Explains that naturalization applicants may not need to file [Form I-90](#) while their Form N-400 is pending as a result of the 24-month extension period provided by their receipt notice.

### **Summary of Changes**

Affected Section: Volume 12 > Part D > Chapter 2 > Section A, Lawful Permanent Resident at Time of Filing and Naturalization

- Revises Subsection 4 (Evidence of LPR Status) in full.

### **Citation**

Volume 12: Citizenship and Naturalization, Part D, General Naturalization Requirements, Chapter 2, Lawful Permanent Resident Admission for Naturalization [[12 USCIS-PM D.2](#)].