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DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

8 CFR Parts 103, 212 and 274a
[CIS No. 2572–15; DHS Docket No. USCIS–2015–0006]
RIN 1615–AC04

International Entrepreneur Rule: Delay of Effective Date

AGENCY: U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, DHS.

ACTION: Final rule with request for comment; delay of effective date.

SUMMARY: The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is temporarily delaying the effective date of the International Entrepreneur Final Rule (82 FR 5238). This delay will provide DHS with an opportunity to obtain comments from the public regarding a proposal to rescind the rule pursuant to Executive Order (E.O.) 13767, “Border Security and Immigration Enforcement Improvements.”


ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, identified by DHS Docket No. USCIS–2015–0006, by any one of the following methods:

- Mail: You may submit comments directly to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) by sending correspondence to Samantha Deshones, Chief, Regulatory Coordination Division, Office of Policy and Strategy, USCIS, DHS, 20 Massachusetts Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20529. To ensure proper handling, please reference DHS Docket No. USCIS–2015–0006 in your correspondence. This mailing address may be used for paper, disk, or CD–ROM submissions.


SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background


The IE Final Rule amended DHS regulations to include criteria that would guide the implementation of the Secretary of Homeland Security’s discretionary case-by-case parole authority as applied to international entrepreneurs. Specifically, it applied to international entrepreneurs who can demonstrate that their parole into the United States under section 212(d)(5) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) would provide a significant public benefit to the United States. In accordance with the final rule’s criteria, such potential would be indicated by, among other things, the receipt of significant capital investment from U.S. investors with established records of successful investments, or obtaining significant awards or grants from certain Federal, State or local government entities. In addition to defining criteria for the favorable exercise of the Secretary’s discretionary parole authority, the IE Final Rule established a period of initial parole stay of up to 30 months (which may be extended by up to an additional 30 months) to facilitate the applicant’s ability to oversee and grow his or her start-up entity in the United States.

On January 25, 2017, the President issued Executive Order (E.O.) 13767, Border Security and Immigration Enforcement Improvements, prescribing improvements to border security and immigration enforcement. See 82 FR 8793 (Jan. 25, 2017). Section 11(d) of the E.O. requires the DHS Secretary to “take appropriate action to ensure that parole authority under section 212(d)(5) of the INA (8 U.S.C. 1182(d)(5)) is exercised only on a case-by-case basis in accordance with the plain language of the statute, and in all circumstances only when an individual demonstrates urgent humanitarian reasons or a significant public benefit derived from such parole.”

After review of E.O. 13767, DHS decided to delay the effective date of the IE Final Rule, to further consider it in light of E.O. 13767. The new effective date for the IE Final Rule, with one minor exception, is March 14, 2018. Additionally, DHS will issue a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking soliciting public comments on the proposal to rescind the IE Final Rule. The delayed effective date will provide an opportunity for the notice and comment rulemaking to take place.

As indicated above, DHS is not delaying the effective date with respect to one provision in the IE Final Rule. In the IE Final Rule, DHS revised 8 CFR 274a.2(b)(1)(v)(C)(2) to add the Department of State Consular Report of Birth Abroad (Form FS–240) to the regulatory text and to the “List C” listing of acceptable documents for Form I–9 verification purposes. See 82 FR 5238, 5241 & n.3. As part of the IE Final Rule, DHS also revised the accompanying form instructions to reflect this change. As this provision is unrelated to entrepreneur parole under the IE Final Rule, this one provision will go into effect on July 17, 2017, as originally provided.

II. Administrative Procedure Act

The Administrative Procedure Act (APA) authorizes agencies to issue a rule without notice and comment upon a showing of good cause. 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B). The APA’s good cause exception to public participation applies upon a finding that those procedures are “impracticable, unnecessary, or contrary to the public interest.” 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B).

DHS has good cause to forego notice and comment rulemaking to delay the effective date for the implementing provisions of the IE Final Rule, because
notice and comment rulemaking would be contrary to the public interest. For the same reason, DHS has good cause to dispense with the 30-day delayed effective date. DHS, however, is nevertheless soliciting post-promulgation public comments on the decision to delay the IE Final Rule.

Undertaking notice and comment rulemaking to delay the IE Final Rule is contrary to the public interest for multiple reasons. If DHS does not delay the effective date immediately, USCIS would be required to expend limited agency resources to implement the IE Final Rule. Those resources are otherwise needed for USCIS to effectively and efficiently carry out its many existing immigration benefit programs facilitating lawful migration into United States. For example, implementing the program would require USCIS to establish a new business line for the processing of entrepreneur parole applications, hiring and training additional adjudicators, modifying intake and case management information technology systems, modifying application and fee intake contracts, developing guidance for the adjudicators, and communicating with the public. Given that DHS will be proposing to rescind the IE final rule, and may ultimately eliminate the program, the expenditure of these resources is unlikely to ever be recouped from filing fees under the new program. USCIS derives approximately 96 percent of its operating budget from fees, and would be required to absorb the costs of the IE program within its existing operating budget, possibly impacting efficiency and effectiveness in other programs. An inefficient use of limited resources is not conducive to the security and economic interests of the United States. Therefore, it is necessary for DHS to immediately suspend the effective date of the IE Final Rule.

Undertaking notice and comment rulemaking to delay the IE Final Rule while DHS considers rescinding the rule also would be contrary to the public interest for other reasons: doing so would sow confusion and would likely cause the waste of resources by multiple stakeholders with interests in this rulemaking. See generally Am. Hosp. Ass’n v. Bowen, 834 F.2d 1037, 1045 (D.C. Cir. 1987) (observing that exceptions to notice and comment, although construed narrowly, are designed for “situations where the policies promoted by public participation in rulemaking are outweighed by the countervailing considerations of effectiveness, efficiency, expedition and reduction in expense”)(quotation marks omitted). Courts have found “good cause” under the APA when an agency is moving expeditiously to eliminate uncertainty or confusion that, if left to linger, could cause tangible harm or hardship to the agency, the program, program users, or other members of the public. See Mid-Tex Elec. Coop. v. FERC, 822 F.2d 1123, 1133–34 (D.C. Cir. 1987) (agency had good cause to promote continuity and prevent “irremedial financial consequences” and “regulatory confusion”).

Allowing the IE Final rule to go into effect while the agency undertakes notice and comment rulemaking to delay its effective date in order to consider a rescission would lead the public to continue to rely on the rule. Such reliance would include expending significant effort and resources in order to establish eligibility under the criteria promulgated by the IE Final Rule. These criteria include establishing a start-up entity in the United States and demonstrating that the entity has secured significant U.S. capital investment or government funding. In the event the IE Final Rule is rescinded—which the Department believes is highly likely—individuals who satisfied these and other requirements of the IE Final Rule would quite possibly do so without being able to reap benefits from the rule. Therefore, providing notice and comment in this case is contrary to public interest.

III. Executive Order 12866, Regulatory Planning and Review

This rule is not “significant” under E.O. 12866, Regulatory Planning and Review.

IV. Paperwork Reduction Act

DHS is delaying the effective date for all proposed changes to the Form I–131, I–765, and I–941, from July 17, 2017, to March 14, 2018. Proposed changes to the Form I–9, with the exception to those changes specific to IE parole, will be effective July 17, 2017.

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), Public Law 104–13, all Departments are required to submit to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), for review and approval, any reporting requirements inherent in a rule. See Public Law 104–13, 109 Stat. 163 (May 22, 1995). This final rule involves a new information collection and makes revisions to the existing information collections as follows:

A. Overview of Information Collection, Application for Entrepreneur Parole, Form I–941

The IE Final Rule published on January 17, 2017, requires that an applicant requesting entrepreneur parole complete an Application for Entrepreneur Parole, Form I–941 which is a new information collection under the PRA. USCIS did receive one comment regarding the time burden of this form and, upon review of the work involved to review the form, gather necessary information to support the submission, and the time required to complete and submit the form, USCIS revised the estimated hour burden per response to 4.7 hours. The Form I–941 is being delayed until March 14, 2018.

b. Abstract: If implemented, this collection would be used by individuals who file an application for entrepreneur parole under INA section 212(d)(5)(A) (8 U.S.C. 1182(d)(5)(A)) and new 8 CFR 212.19. Such individuals, other than those filing an application on the basis of a material change, would be subject to biometric collection in connection with the filing of the application.

c. Title of Form/Collection: Application for Entrepreneur Parole, Form I–941.


e. Affected public who will be asked or required to respond: Businesses and other for-profit; Not-for-profit Institutions.

f. An estimate of the total annual numbers of respondents: 2,940.

g. Hours per response: The estimated hour per response for Form I–941 is 4.7 hours; the estimated hour burden per response for the biometric processing is 1.17 hours.

h. Total Annual Reporting Burden: Total estimated annual hour burden associated with this collection is 17,258 hours.

B. Overview of Information Collection, Application for Travel Document Form I–131, OMB Control No. 1615–0013

The IE Final Rule published by DHS on January 17, 2017 revised this information collection (i.e. Form I–131) by including spouses and children seeking parole on the basis of an entrepreneur parolee.

In addition to revising the form and form instructions, the IE Final Rule revised the estimate of total burden
hours which had increased due to the
addition of this new population of
Application for Travel Document, Form
I–131, filers, and the increase of burden
hours associated with the collection of
biometrics from these applicants. The
changes made to Form I–131 are being
delayed until March 14, 2018.

a. Type of information collection:
Revised information collection.

b. Abstract: If implemented, this
collection would be used by dependents
of individuals who file an application
for entrepreneur parole under INA
section 212(d)(5)(A) (8 U.S.C.
1182(d)(5)(A)) and new 8 CFR 212.19.
Such individuals would be subject to
biometric collection in connection with
the filing of the application.

c. Title of Form/Collection:
Application for Travel Document, Form
I–131.

d. Agency form number, if any, and
the applicable component of the
Department of Homeland Security
sponsoring the collection: Application
for Travel Document, Form I–131, U.S.
Citizenship and Immigration Services.

e. Affected public who will be asked
or required to respond: Individuals or
households.

f. An estimate of the total annual
numbers of respondents: 594,324.

The total number of respondents
includes the additional population of
3,234 individuals as estimated
previously in the analysis in Section
IV.C.

g. Hours per response: The estimated
hour per response for Form I–131
Supplement is 1.9 hours; the estimated
hour burden per response for the
biometric processing is 1.17 hours; the
estimated hour burden per response for the
passport-style photographs is .5
hours.

h. Total Annual Reporting Burden:
The total estimated annual hour burden
associated with this collection is
1,372,928 hours.

C. Overview of Information Collection,
Employment Eligibility Verification,
Form I–9, OMB Control No. 1615–0047

In accordance with revised 8 CFR
274a.2(b)(1)(v)(A)(5) promulgated by the
IE Final Rule are being delayed until
March 14, 2018 also include revisions to the Form I–9 Lists of
Acceptable Documents, List A item 5
to replace “nonimmigrant alien” with
“individual,” to replace “alien’s
nonimmigrant” with “individual,” and
to add “or parole” after “status” in List A
item 5.b.(2).

a. Type of information collection:
Revised information collection.

b. Abstract: This form was developed
to facilitate compliance with section
274A of the Immigration and
Nationality Act, which prohibits the
knowing employment of unauthorized
aliens. This information collection is
necessary for employers, agricultural
recruiters and referrers for a fee, and
state employment agencies to verify the
identity and employment authorization
of individuals hired (or recruited or
required for a fee, if applicable) for
employment in the United States.

c. Title of Form/Collection:
Employment Eligibility Verification.

d. Agency form number, if any, and
the applicable component of the
Department of Homeland Security
sponsoring the collection: Form I–9,
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration
Services.

e. Affected public who will be asked
or required to respond: Business or
other for-profit; Individuals or
households; State, local or Tribal
Government.

f. An estimate of the total annual
numbers of respondents: 78 million
respondents; approximately 40,600,000 total annual
burden hours.

D. Overview of Information Collection,
Application for Employment
Authorization, Form I–765, OMB
Control No. 1615–0040

The IE Final Rule published on
January 17, 2017 made minor revisions
to the form instructions to reflect
changes made by that rule that allow
spouses of an entrepreneur parolee to
request employment authorization.
Those changes to Form I–765 are being
delayed until March 14, 2018.

a. Type of information collection:
Revised information collection.

b. Abstract: If implemented, this
collection would be used by individuals
who file an application for entrepreneur
parole under INA section 212(d)(5)(A) (8 U.S.C.
1182(d)(5)(A)) and new 8 CFR 212.19.
Such individuals would be subject to
biometric collection in connection with
the filing of the application.

This form was developed for
individual aliens to request employment
authorization and evidence of that
employment authorization. The form is
being amended to add a new class of
aliens eligible to apply for employment
authorization, specifically a spouse of
an entrepreneur parolee described as
eligible for employment authorization
under this rule. Supporting
documentation demonstrating eligibility
must be filed with the application.
The form lists examples of relevant
documentation.

C. Title of Form/Collection:
Application for Employment
Authorization, Form I–765.

In accordance with revised 8 CFR
274a.2(b)(1)(v)(A)(5) promulgated by the
IE Final Rule published on January 17, 2017 updated the
Employment Eligibility Verification
(Form I–9) Lists of Acceptable
Documents, List C and the Document
Title table to reflect the most current
version of the certification or report of
birth issued by the Department of State,
Form FS–240 Consular Report of Birth
Abroad. DHS also made clarifying
changes in the form instructions by
removing “the end of” when describing
the day on which Form I–9 completion
is required and revising the Office of
Special Counsel for Immigration-Related
Unfair employment Practices to its new
name of Immigrant and Employee
Rights Section (IER) in the Department of
Justice’s Civil Rights Division. These
changes to the Form I–9 will go into

- Time Burden for Employees—10
  minutes (.17 hours) total;
- Time Burden for Employers—20
  minutes (.33 hours) total;
- Time Burden for Recordkeeping—
  5 minutes (.08 hours) total.

b. An estimate of the total annual
numbers of respondents: 2,139,523.

This total represents the aggregate
estimate for this information collection.

- Time Burden for Employees—10
  minutes (.17 hours) total;
- Time Burden for Employers—20
  minutes (.33 hours) total;
- Time Burden for Recordkeeping—
  5 minutes (.08 hours) total.

C. Title of Form/Collection:
Application for Employment
Authorization, Form I–765.

Agency form number, if any, and
the applicable component of the
Department of Homeland Security
sponsoring the collection: Form I–765,
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration
Services.

a. Time Burden for Employees—10
  minutes (.17 hours) total;
- Time Burden for Employers—20
  minutes (.33 hours) total;
- Time Burden for Recordkeeping—
  5 minutes (.08 hours) total.

- Time Burden for Employees—10
  minutes (.17 hours) total;
- Time Burden for Employers—20
  minutes (.33 hours) total;
- Time Burden for Recordkeeping—
  5 minutes (.08 hours) total.

- Time Burden for Employees—10
  minutes (.17 hours) total;
- Time Burden for Employers—20
  minutes (.33 hours) total;
- Time Burden for Recordkeeping—
  5 minutes (.08 hours) total.

- Time Burden for Employees—10
  minutes (.17 hours) total;
- Time Burden for Employers—20
  minutes (.33 hours) total;
- Time Burden for Recordkeeping—
  5 minutes (.08 hours) total.
hours; the estimated hour burden per response for biometric processing is 1.17 hours; the estimated hour burden per response for Form I–765 WS is .5 hours; the estimated hour burden per response for passport-style photographs is .5 hours.

h. Total Annual Reporting Burden: The total estimated annual hour burden associated with this collection is 8,985,859 hours.

John F. Kelly, Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

10 CFR Parts 429 and 431
RIN 1904–AD43

Energy Conservation Program: Test Procedures for Compressors


ACTION: Request for information (RFI).

SUMMARY: On January 4, 2017, the U.S. Department of Energy ("DOE") published a final rule establishing new test procedures for certain varieties of compressors. The final rule established definitions, materials incorporated by reference, sampling plans, representations requirements, enforcement provisions and test procedures for certain varieties of compressors. Since that time, DOE has received correspondence, raising concerns that certain issues and information may not have been fully considered during the original rulemaking proceeding and also indicating further clarification may be needed to implement the rule as adopted. As a result, by this RFI, DOE is soliciting further data and information regarding the compressor test procedure and announcing that DOE will not seek to enforce the test procedure rule for 180 days (i.e., until December 30, 2017) while it considers the data and information already submitted and any further material submitted in response to this request for information.

DATES: Comments: DOE will accept comments, data, and information regarding this RFI until September 11, 2017.

ADDRESSES: Interested parties are encouraged to submit comments using the Federal eRulemaking Portal at www.regulations.gov. Any comments submitted must identify the request for information concerning the test procedures for compressors. You may submit comments, identified by Docket Number, EERE–2014–BT–TP–0054, by any of the following methods:

• Federal eRulemaking Portal: http://www.regulations.gov. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.
• Email: AirCompressors2014TP0054@ee.doe.gov. Include the docket number, EERE–2014–BT–TP–0054 in the subject line of the message. Submit electronic comments in WordPerfect, Microsoft Word, PDF, or ASCII file format, and avoid the use of special characters or any form of encryption.
• Hand Delivery/Courier: Appliance and Equipment Standards Program, U.S. Department of Energy, Building Technologies Office, 950 L’Enfant Plaza SW., 6th Floor, Washington, DC 20024. Telephone: (202) 586–6636. If possible, please submit all items on a CD, in which case it is not necessary to include printed copies. No telefacsimiles (faxes) will be accepted. For detailed instructions on submitting comments and additional information on the rulemaking process, see section II of this document (Public Participation).


For further information on how to submit a comment, or review other public comments and the docket, contact the Appliance and Equipment Standards Program staff at (202) 586–6636 or by email: ApplianceStandardsQuestions@ee.doe.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

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I. Authority and Background

A. Coverage Determination

Title III of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act of 1975, as amended (“EPICA”), sets forth a variety of provisions designed to improve energy efficiency. (42 U.S.C. 6291, et seq.) Part C of Title III, which for editorial reasons was re-designated as Part A–1 upon incorporation into the U.S. Code (42 U.S.C. 6311–6317), establishes the “Energy Conservation Program for Certain Industrial Equipment.” EPICA provides that DOE may include a type of industrial equipment, including compressors, as covered equipment if it determines that to do so is necessary to carry out the purposes of Part A–1. (42 U.S.C. 6311(2)(B)(i) and 6312(b)). The purpose of Part A–1 is to improve the efficiency of electric motors and pumps and certain other industrial equipment in order to conserve the energy resources of the Nation. (42 U.S.C. 6312(a)) On November 15, 2016, DOE published a Notice of Final Determination of Coverage, classifying compressors as covered equipment. The final coverage determination became effective on December 15, 2016, 81 FR 79991.

B. Test Procedure

DOE may develop test procedures to measure the energy efficiency, energy use, or estimated annual operating cost of each covered equipment. (42 U.S.C. 6314). Manufacturers of covered equipment must use the prescribed DOE test procedure as the basis for certifying to DOE that their equipment complies with the applicable energy conservation standards adopted under EPICA and when making any representations regarding the energy use or efficiency of that equipment. (42 U.S.C. 6295(s), 6316(a) and 6314(d)). On January 4, 2017, DOE published a final rule to establish new test procedures for certain varieties of compressors. 82 FR 1052. The final rule established definitions, materials incorporated by reference, sampling plans, representations requirements, enforcement provisions and test procedures for certain varieties of