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Federal Register / Vol. 81, No. 207 / Wednesday, October 26, 2016 / Notices

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This notice does not affect the status of aliens who currently hold valid H-2A or H-2B nonimmigrant status. Persons currently holding such status, however, will be affected by this notice should they seek an extension of stay in H-2 classification, or a change of status from one H-2 status to another. Similarly, persons holding nonimmigrant status other than H-2 status are not affected by this notice unless they seek a change of status to H-2 status.

Nothing in this notice limits the authority of the Secretary of Homeland Security or his or her designee or any other federal agency to invoke against any foreign country or its nationals any other remedy, penalty, or enforcement action available by law.

Jeh Charles Johnson,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2016-25872 Filed 10-25-16; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 9110-9M-P

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

[CIS No. 2590-16; DHS Docket No. USCIS-2015-0003]

RIN 1615-ZB60

Extension of the Designation of Nepal for Temporary Protected Status

AGENCY: U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Through this Notice, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announces that the Secretary of Homeland Security (Secretary) is extending the designation of Nepal for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for a period of 18 months, effective December 25, 2016, through June 24, 2018.

This extension allows eligible Nepalese nationals (and aliens having no nationality who last habitually

resided in Nepal) to retain TPS through June 24, 2018, so long as they otherwise continue to meet the eligibility requirements for TPS. The Secretary has determined that an extension is warranted because conditions in Nepal supporting its designation for TPS continue to be met.

Through this Notice, DHS also sets forth procedures necessary for nationals of Nepal (or aliens having no nationality who last habitually resided in Nepal) to re-register for TPS and to apply for renewal of their Employment Authorization Documents (EAD) with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). Re-registration is limited to persons who have previously registered for TPS under the designation of Nepal and whose applications have been granted. Certain nationals of Nepal (or aliens having no nationality who last habitually resided in Nepal) who have not previously applied for TPS may be eligible to apply under the late initial registration provisions, if they meet: (1) At least one of the late initial filing criteria; and, (2) all TPS eligibility criteria (including continuous residence in the United States since June 24, 2015, and continuous physical presence in the United States since June 24, 2015).

For individuals who have already been granted TPS under Nepal's designation, the 60-day re-registration period runs from October 26, 2016 through December 27, 2016. USCIS will issue new EADs with a June 24, 2018 expiration date to eligible Nepal TPS beneficiaries who timely re-register and apply for EADs under this extension. Given the timeframes involved with processing TPS re-registration applications, DHS recognizes that not all re-registrants will receive new EADs before their current EADs expire on December 24, 2016. Accordingly, through this Notice, DHS automatically extends the validity of EADs issued under the TPS designation of Nepal for 6 months, through June 24, 2017, and explains how TPS beneficiaries and their employers may determine which EADs are automatically extended and their impact on the Employment Eligibility Verification (Form I-9) and E-Verify processes.

DATES: The 18-month extension of the TPS designation of Nepal is effective December 25, 2016, and will remain in effect through June 24, 2018. The 60-day re-registration period runs from October 26, 2016 through December 27, 2016. (Note: It is important for re-registrants to timely re-register during this 60-day period and not wait until the EADs expire.)

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

• For further information on TPS, including guidance on the application process and additional information on eligibility, please visit the USCIS TPS Web page at <http://www.uscis.gov/tps>.

You can find specific information about the extension of Nepal's designation for TPS by selecting "Nepal" from the menu on the left side of the TPS Web page.

• You can also contact Guillermo Roman-Riefkohl, TPS Program Manager at the Waivers and Temporary Services Branch, Service Center Operations Directorate, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, 20 Massachusetts Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20529-2060; or by phone at 202-272-1533 (this is not a toll-free number). Note: The phone number provided here is solely for questions regarding this TPS Notice. It is not for individual case status inquires.

• Applicants seeking information about the status of their individual cases can check Case Status Online, available at the USCIS Web site at <http://www.uscis.gov>, or call the USCIS National Customer Service Center at 800-375-5283 (TTY 800-767-1833). Service is available in English and Spanish.

• Further information will also be available at local USCIS offices upon publication of this Notice.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Table of Abbreviations

BIA—Board of Immigration Appeals
 DHS—Department of Homeland Security
 EAD—Employment Authorization Document
 FNC—Final Nonconfirmation
 Government—U.S. Government
 IJ—Immigration Judge
 INA—Immigration and Nationality Act
 OSC—Department of Justice, Office of Special Counsel for Immigration-Related Unfair Employment Practices
 SAVE—USCIS Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements Program
 Secretary—Secretary of Homeland Security
 TNC—Tentative Nonconfirmation
 TPS—Temporary Protected Status
 TTY—Text Telephone
 USCIS—U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

What is Temporary Protected Status (TPS)?

• TPS is a temporary immigration status granted to eligible nationals of a country designated for TPS under the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), or to eligible persons without nationality who last habitually resided in the designated country.

• During the TPS designation period, TPS beneficiaries are eligible to remain in the United States, may not be