

**U. S. Department of Justice**

Immigration and Naturalization Service

**A Guide To Selected U.S. Travel/Identity Documents For Law Enforcement Officers**



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This guide has been prepared to assist law enforcement officers in recognizing travel and employment authorization documents. The guide contains color photographs of the most commonly used documents, but it is not comprehensive. There are earlier valid revisions of the illustrated documents and other less common documents that are not included.

Because the attachments are reproductions, the exact size and color may deviate from the original. Do **not** make identifications based on size and/or color alone.

If you have any questions concerning the authenticity of one of these documents, you are encouraged to contact your local INS office.

## GENERAL INFORMATION CONCERNING

### ALIEN STATUS

In accordance with the 14th amendment to the U.S. Constitution, any person born in and subject to the jurisdiction of the United States is a citizen of the U.S. at birth. U.S. citizenship may also be acquired through DERIVATION from U.S. citizen parents when children are born abroad or through NATURALIZATION after meeting the necessary residency requirements. All persons not citizens or nationals of the U.S. are aliens which generally are classified as PERMANENT RESIDENTS (Immigrants), NON-IMMIGRANTS, or UNDOCUMENTED ALIENS.

PERMANENT RESIDENT ALIENS enjoy almost all of the same rights as U.S. citizens. This status may be obtained through a number of different procedures and, unless taken away by administrative hearing, is granted for life. Aliens with permanent residency must carry evidence of their status. The Immigration & Naturalization Service (INS) no longer requires permanent residents to report their address annually.

NON-IMMIGRANT ALIENS are admitted to the U.S. for a temporary period of time and for a specific purpose, most often as a tourist. There are different classes of non-immigrants, and they are identified through letter/number symbols (i.e. B-2). Non-immigrants are also required to present evidence of their lawful status in the U.S. to officers of the INS. This will usually consist of a passport containing a visa and an I-94 Arrival/Departure Record.

UNDOCUMENTED ALIENS are those who may have crossed the border illegally and/or been smuggled into the interior of the U.S., or those who have violated their non-immigrant status by accepting unauthorized employment, remaining longer than permitted or committing some other violation. Some of these aliens purchase counterfeit documents or assume another person's identity by using fraudulently obtained genuine documents.

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## US PASSPORT

A UNITED STATES PASSPORT is a document that is issued by the State Department to persons who have established that they are

citizens of the United States, whether it is by birth, naturalization or derivation. The primary purpose of the passport is to facilitate travel to foreign countries by establishing U.S. citizenship and acting as a vehicle to display any appropriate visas and/or entry/exit stamps that may be necessary.

Passports are also very reliable documents which may be used within the United States to establish citizenship, identity and employment authorization.



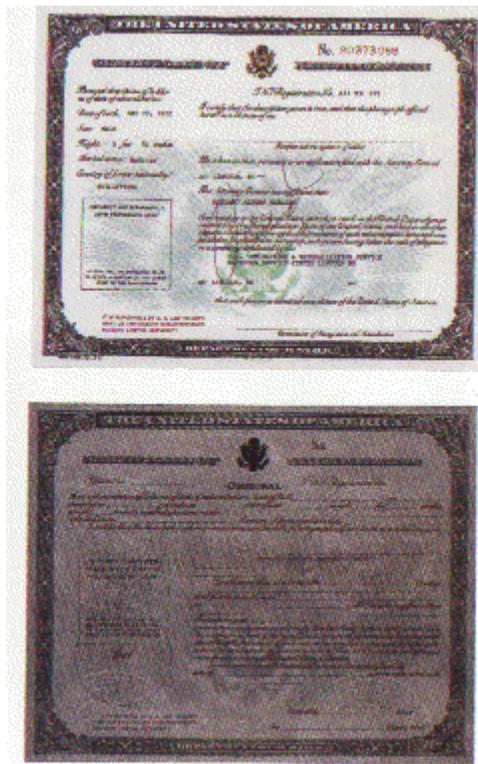
**NOTE:** There are approximately fifteen different versions of the US passport that are presently valid which vary from the 1994 version illustrated above.

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## CERTIFICATE OF NATURALIZATION

Although there have been many different revisions of the CERTIFICATE OF NATURALIZATION, there are two common versions. The present version has a green color background design and contains a gold embossed Great Seal of the United States in the top center portion. Earlier versions were gray or beige and did not contain the embossed seal. Regardless, all certificates of naturalization are printed on watermarked paper.

The watermark design of the Department of Justice seal and the letters "USA" becomes visible when the document is held up to a strong light.



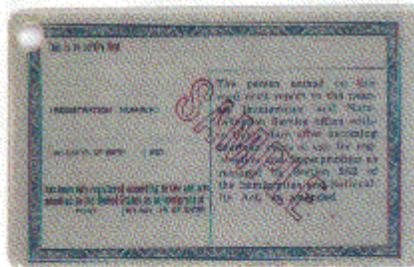
(Watermark)

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### Alien Registration Receipt Cards

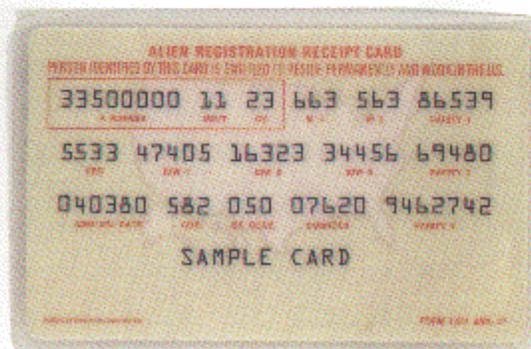
INS Forms 1-151 and 1-551, are issued to aliens who have been granted permanent resident status in the United States. They retain this status while in this country. The bearer is required to have this card in his/her possession at all times.

The first ALIEN REGISTRATION RECEIPT CARD, Form 1-151, was introduced in 1946. Through 18 years of various revisions, it remained primarily green in color causing it to become known as a "green card." This term is still commonly used today although the cards have not been "green" since 1964. These cards contained no expiration date and were only required to be renewed if the recipient was under the age of 14 at the time of issuance, or if the card was lost or stolen.



NOTE: As of March 20, 1996, the above form 1-151 is no longer acceptable as evidence of permanent residence.

The RESIDENT ALIEN CARD, Form 1-551 was introduced in January 1977 and phased in over a period of time. In addition to the photograph, the 1-551 will contain the bearer's signature and fingerprint.







## Form I-688A

The expiration date may be extended by placing a small sticker on the reverse side. There are two different types of extension stickers which have been used. One extends the expiration date for 90 days and the other for 1 year. Multiple stickers may be used for further extensions

INS Valid for 90 Days from Expiration Date

INS Valid for One (1) Year from Expiration Date

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The TEMPORARY RESIDENT CARD, Form 1-688 is the second document issued to aliens who further qualify under the "Amnesty Program" It is produced in the same manner as the I-668A and contains the same security features. The text statement on the reverse side is different and explains the privileges granted to the bearer.



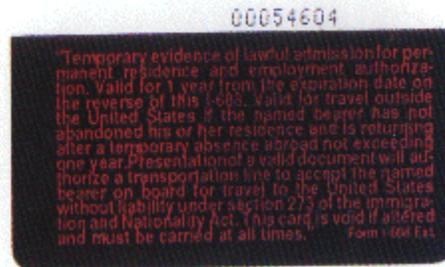
Form I-688

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The 1-688 may be extended by placing a sticker on the reverse. Again, multiple stickers may be used to further extensions.

FORM I-688B EXPIRES ONE YEAR FROM DATE OF EXPIRATION

Once the bearer becomes a permanent resident, a larger sticker is placed on the reverse which explains the new status of the bearer. With this endorsement, the bearer has the same privileges as a permanent resident.

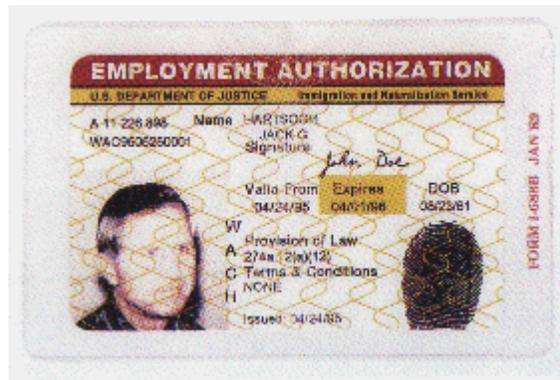


This Employment Authorization Document, Form I-688B, is issued to aliens who are not permanent residents but have been granted permission to be employed in the U.S. for a specific period of time. The card originally was produced with a Polaroid process similar to the I-688 and-688A, but has the added feature of interlocking gold lines across the front.



Form I-688B

In May 1995, some INS offices began issuing a modified I-688B. The most significant change was to the card stock which was changed from the Polaroid process to a synthetic material called Teslin on which the biometric and biographic data of the bearer are printed. Note that on this version, the name is printed on two lines.



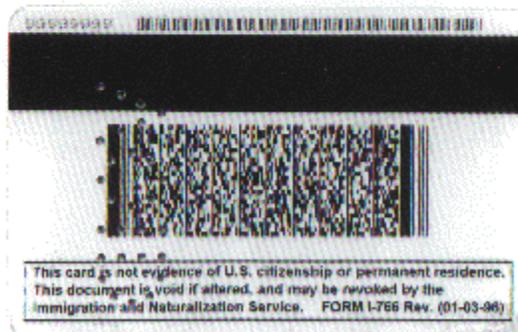
Form I-688B (May 1995)

In August 1995 changes were made to the software which prints the I-688Bs and the name reverted to the one line format similar to the original card.



Form I-688B (August 1995)

In January 1997, INS began issuing a new Employment Authorization Document, Form I-766. The new card is a credit card type of document. The front of the card contains a photo, fingerprint and signature of the rightful holder. The reverse contains a standard bar code, magnetic strip and a two-dimensional bar code which will contain unique card, biographic and biometric data.



Form I-766 (January 1997)

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A REENTRY PERMIT, Form 1-327, is issued to a permanent resident alien in lieu of a passport. The reentry permit guarantees his/her permission to reenter the U.S. and is valid for a period of 2 years. It is not renewable.

The reentry permit contains a digitized photograph and many of the security features of the passport. Visas and entry/exit stamps may be applied to the blank pages.







Departure Number  
742831632 01

U.S. IMMIGRATION  
259 WASH 177

Immigration and  
Naturalization Service  
I-84  
Departure Record

SEP 13 1991

ADMITTED B-2  
UNTIL MARCH 12, 1992

(a) Family Name  
DOE

(b) First (Given) Name  
J. O. DOE

(c) Country of Citizenship  
ENGLAND

(d) Birth Date (DD/MM/YY)  
01/01/1911

See Other Side STAPLE HERE

**Warning** - A nonimmigrant who accepts unauthorized employment is subject to deportation.

**Important** - Retain this permit in your possession; you must surrender it when you leave the U.S. Failure to do so may delay your entry into the U.S. in the future. You are authorized to stay in the U.S. only until the date written on this form. To remain past this date, without permission from immigration authorities, is a violation of the law.

**Surrender this permit when you leave the U.S.:**

- By sea or air, to the transportation line;
- Across the Canadian border, to a Canadian Official;
- Across the Mexican border, to a U.S. Official.

Students planning to reenter the U.S. within 30 days to return to the same school, see "Arrival-Departure" on page 2 of Form I-20 prior to surrendering this permit.

Record of Changes

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Port: \_\_\_\_\_ Departure Record

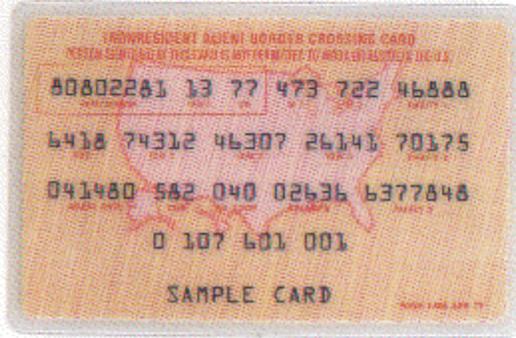
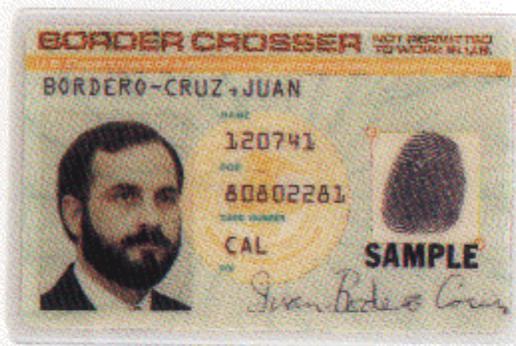
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Carrier: \_\_\_\_\_

Flight #/Ship Name: \_\_\_\_\_

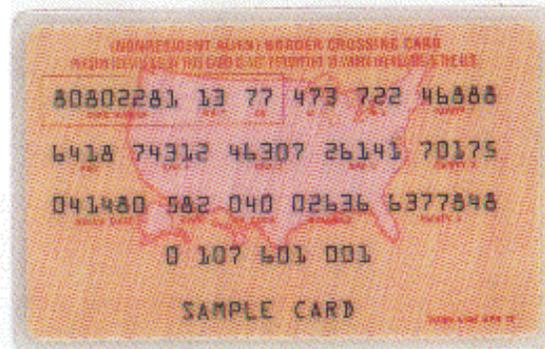
For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office  
Washington, D.C. 20402

The BORDER CROSSER CARD, Form I-586, is issued to Mexican nationals who reside in Mexico and frequently cross into the U.S. for visits, shopping or to conduct commerce. The status granted to the bearer is B-1/B-2. A visitor for business or pleasure. The bearer of this card is not entitled to work in the U.S., is restricted to stays of no more than 72 hours, and may only travel within 25 miles of the border. This card is similar in design to the Resident Alien Card, except for the color.



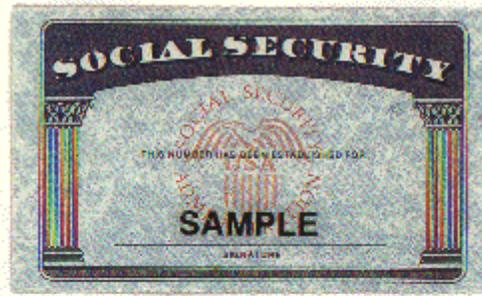
Form I-586

The BORDER CROSSER CARD, Form I-586 was revised in November 1990. The most noticeable difference between the original I-586 and the revised card is the color. The front of the revised card has a peach colored background and the color of the heading at the top of the card is teal.





1983 have been printed with raised (intaglio) printing and the signature line consists of microline printing of the words "SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION" in a repeating pattern.



This card is the official verification of your Social Security number. Please sign it right away. Keep it in a safe place. Improper use of this card or number by anyone is punishable by fine, imprisonment or both.

This card belongs to the Social Security Administration and you must return it if we ask for it.

If you find a card that isn't yours, please return it to:  
Social Security Administration  
P.O. Box 17067, Baltimore, MD 21235

For any other Social Security business/information, contact your local Social Security office. If you write to the above address for any business other than returning a found card, it will take longer for us to answer your letter.

Social Security Administration  
Form SSA-3000 (4-95)

**SAMPLE**  
**005000001**