



U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

USCIS To Issue Redesigned Green Card

WASHINGTON - U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced today that it has redesigned the Permanent Resident Card - commonly known as the "Green Card" - to incorporate several major new security features. The Green Card redesign is the latest advance in USCIS's ongoing efforts to deter immigration fraud. State-of-the-art technology incorporated into the new card prevents counterfeiting, obstructs tampering, and facilitates quick and accurate authentication. Beginning today, USCIS will issue all Green Cards in the new, more secure format.

"Redesigning the Green Card is a major achievement for USCIS," said Director Alejandro Mayorkas. "The new security technology makes a critical contribution to the integrity of the immigration system."

The enhanced features will better serve law enforcement, employers, and immigrants, all of whom look to the Green Card as definitive proof of authorization to live and work in the United States. Among the benefits of the redesign: Secure optical media will store biometrics for rapid and reliable identification of the card holder. Holographic images, laser engraved fingerprints, and high resolution micro-images will make the card nearly impossible to reproduce. Tighter integration of the card design with personalized elements will make it difficult to alter the card if stolen. Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) capability will allow Customs and Border Protection officers at ports of entry to read the card from a distance and compare it immediately to file data. Finally, a preprinted return address will enable the easy return of a lost card to USCIS.

In keeping with the Permanent Resident Card's nickname, it will now be colored green for easy recognition. USCIS will replace Green Cards already in circulation as individuals apply for renewal or replacement.



For more information on permanent residency and other immigration benefits, visit www.uscis.gov, or call USCIS's National Customer Service Center at (800) 375-5283.

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USCIS To Issue Redesigned Green Card Fact Sheet

Introduction

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced today that it has redesigned the Permanent Resident Card—commonly known as the “Green Card”—to incorporate several major new security features. State-of-the-art technology prevents counterfeiting, obstructs tampering, and facilitates quick and accurate authentication of the card. Beginning today, USCIS will issue all Green Cards in the new, more secure format.

Card Features



Front of Card

Previous New

Optical Variable Ink		X
Holographic Image	X	X
Embedded Radio Frequency Identification Device (RFD)		X
Laser Engraved Fingerprint		X
Unique Background Design	X	X

Back of Card

Tamper Resistant Border		X
Optical Media Stores All Digital Files, Including Biometrics	X	X
Micro-image, High Resolution Pictures of State Flags and Presidents		X

Features of note:

- Redesign results from extensive collaboration with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Screening Coordination Office, the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Forensic Document Laboratory, and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP).
- Special ink creates color shifts in visual designs (e.g., eagle's head).
- Fine-lined artwork and complex architecture incorporate patterns that are nearly impossible to reproduce.
- Card materials resist tampering. Attempted tampering becomes immediately visible to the naked eye.
- Standard card design and personalized features are integrated to deter fraud attempts, e.g., alteration of the photograph.
- Greater detail in photograph makes for easier identification of the bearer.
- Ultra-violet technology and tactile clues allow accurate card authentication at border crossings.
- Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) allows inspectors to read unique, 192-bit serial number (192-bits) from a distance and link the information to the personal data on file.
- Personalized return address on back of card doubles as security feature and as customer-service enhancement to facilitate easy return of lost cards to USCIS.
- In keeping with its nickname, redesigned Permanent Resident Card is now green.