

PART 223—REENTRY PERMITS, REFUGEE TRAVEL DOCUMENTS, AND ADVANCE PAROLE DOCUMENTS

Sec.

223.1 Purpose of documents.

223.2 Processing.

223.3 Validity and effect on admissibility.

AUTHORITY: 8 U.S.C. 1103, 1181, 1182, 1186a, 1203, 1225, 1226, 1227, 1251; Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees, November 1, 1968, 19 U.S.T. 6223 (TIAS) 6577; 8 CFR part 2.

SOURCE: 59 FR 1464, Jan. 11, 1994, unless otherwise noted.

§ 223.1 Purpose of documents.

(a) *Reentry permit.* A reentry permit allows a permanent resident to apply for admission to the United States upon return from abroad during the period of the permit's validity without the necessity of obtaining a returning resident visa.

(b) *Refugee travel document.* A refugee travel document is issued pursuant to this part and article 28 of the United Nations Convention of July 29, 1951, for the purpose of travel. Except as provided in § 223.3(d)(2)(i), a person who holds refugee status pursuant to section 207 of the Act, or asylum status pursuant to section 208 of the Act, must have a refugee travel document to return to the United States after temporary travel abroad unless he or she is in possession of a valid advance parole document.

[59 FR 1464, Jan. 11, 1994, as amended at 62 FR 10352, Mar. 6, 1997]

§ 223.2 Processing.

(a) *General.* An application for a reentry permit, refugee travel document, or advance parole document must be filed on Form I-131, with the fee required in § 103.7 of this chapter and with the initial evidence required on the application form.

(b) *Eligibility—(1) Reentry permit.* Except as otherwise provided in this section, an application may be approved if filed by a person who is in the United States at the time of application and is a lawful permanent resident or conditional permanent resident.

(2) *Refugee travel document—(i) General.* Except as otherwise provided in this section, an application may be ap-

proved if filed by a person who is in the United States at the time of application, and either holds valid refugee status under section 207 of the Act, valid asylum status under section 208 of the Act, or is a permanent resident and received such status as a direct result of his or her asylum or refugee status.

(ii) *Discretionary authority to adjudicate an application from an alien not within the United States.* As a matter of discretion, a district director having jurisdiction over a port-of-entry or a preinspection station where an alien is an applicant for admission, or an overseas district director having jurisdiction over the place where an alien is physically present, may accept and adjudicate an application for a refugee travel document from an alien who previously had been admitted to the United States as a refugee, or who previously had been granted asylum status in the United States, and who had departed from the United States without having applied for such refugee travel document, provided:

(A) The alien submits a Form I-131, Application for Travel Document, with the fee required under § 103.7(b)(1) of this chapter;

(B) The district director is satisfied that the alien did not intend to abandon his or her refugee status at the time of departure from the United States;

(C) The alien did not engage in any activities while outside the United States that would be inconsistent with continued refugee or asylee status; and

(D) The alien has been outside the United States for less than 1 year since his or her last departure.

(c) *Ineligibility—(1) Prior document still valid.* An application for a reentry permit or refugee travel document shall be denied if the applicant was previously issued a reentry permit or refugee travel document which is still valid, unless it was returned to the Service or it is demonstrated that it was lost.

(2) *Extended absences.* A reentry permit issued to a person who, since becoming a permanent resident, or during the last 5 years, whichever is less, has been outside the United States for more than 4 years in the aggregate, shall be limited to a validity of one