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***970 10. DHS Extends TPS for Honduras and Nicaragua**

On May 5, 2010, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced that Secretary Janet Napolitano has extended the designations of Honduras and Nicaragua for temporary protected status (TPS) for 18 months from the current expiration date of July 5, 2010, to January 5, 2012. The DHS notices of the announcement set forth the procedures for nationals of Honduras or Nicaragua (or aliens having no nationality who last habitually resided in Honduras or Nicaragua) with TPS to reregister and to apply for an extension of their employment authorization documents (EADs) with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). Reregistration is limited to persons who previously registered for TPS under the designation of Honduras or Nicaragua and whose applications have been granted or remain pending. Certain nationals of Honduras or Nicaragua (or aliens having no nationality who last habitually resided in Honduras or Nicaragua) who have not previously applied for TPS may be eligible to apply under the late initial registration provisions.

New EADs with a January 5, 2012, expiration date will be issued to eligible TPS beneficiaries who timely reregister and apply for EADs. Given the timeframes involved with processing TPS reregistration applications, there is a possibility that all reregistrants may not receive their new EADs until after their current EADs expire on July 5, 2010. Accordingly, the validity of EADs issued under the TPS designation of Honduras or Nicaragua is automatically extended for six months, through January 5, 2011. The notices explain how TPS beneficiaries and their employers may determine which EADs are automatically extended.

Honduras and Nicaragua were first designated for TPS in 1999 due to the devastation resulting from Hurricane Mitch; TPS was subsequently extended seven times. [FN47] Based upon DHS' and the DOS' continued review of conditions in these countries, the Secretary of DHS has concluded that an 18-month extension is warranted because there continues to be a substantial, but temporary, disruption in living conditions in Honduras and Nicaragua resulting from Hurricane Mitch and these countries remain unable, temporarily, to adequately handle the return of nationals as is required for TPS designations based on this environmental disaster.

There are approximately 66,000 nationals of Honduras and 3,000 nationals of Nicaragua (or aliens having no nationality who last habitually resided in these countries) who have been granted TPS and who may be eligible for reregistration. The notices contain tables indicating which forms and fees must be submitted for various applicants, *971 tables indicating who must pay the biometric service fee, and tables indicating where the applications should be mailed. The notices also contain a list of answers to frequently asked questions, most notably how to reregister for TPS.

The extension of the TPS designations of Honduras and Nicaragua is effective July 6, 2010, and will remain in effect through January 5, 2012. The 60-day reregistration period began on May 5, 2010, and will remain in effect until July 6, 2010. The notice of the extension of TPS for Honduras is published in 75 Fed. Reg. 24734 (May 5, 2010) and reproduced in Appendix III of this Release. The notice extending TPS for Nicaragua is pub-

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lished in 75 Fed. Reg. 24737 (May 5, 2010) (Nicaragua) and reproduced in Appendix IV of this Release.

USCIS has issued lists of questions and answers (Q&As) relating to these extensions, which are posted on its website. [FN48]

[FN47]. TPS for Honduras and Nicaragua was first announced in 64 Fed. Reg. 524 (26 (Jan. 5, 1999) and 64 Fed. Reg. 526 (Jan. 5, 1999), respectively, which were discussed and reproduced in 76 Interpreter Releases 47, 49 (Jan. 11, 1999). TPS was subsequently extended 12 months to July 5, 2001, 65 Fed. Reg. 30438 (May 11, 2000) (Honduras) and 65 Fed. Reg. 30440 (May 11, 2000) (Nicaragua), discussed and reproduced in 77 Interpreter Releases 626, 638 (May 15, 2000); 12 months to July 5, 2002, 66 Fed. Reg. 23269 (May 8, 2001) (Honduras) and 66 Fed. Reg. 23272 (May 8, 2001) (Nicaragua), discussed and reproduced in 78 Interpreter Releases 815, 826 (May 14, 2001); 12 months to July 5, 2003, 67 Fed. Reg. 22451 (May 3, 2002) (Honduras) and 67 Fed. Reg. 22454 (May 3, 2002) (Nicaragua), discussed and reproduced in 79 Interpreter Releases 659, 681 (May 6, 2002); 18 months to Jan. 5, 2005, 68 Fed. Reg. 23744 (May 5, 2003) (Honduras) and 68 Fed. Reg. 23748 (May 5, 2003), discussed and reproduced in 80 Interpreter Releases 647, 666 (May 5, 2003); 18 months to July 5, 2006, 69 Fed. Reg. 64084 (Nov. 3, 2004) (Honduras) and 69 Fed. Reg. 64088 (Nov. 3, 2004) (Nicaragua), discussed and reproduced in 81 Interpreter Releases 1574, 1589 (Nov. 8, 2004); 12 months to July 5, 2007, 71 Fed. Reg. 16328 (Honduras) (Mar. 31, 2006) and 71 Fed. Reg. 16333 (Nicaragua) (Mar. 31, 2006), discussed and reproduced in 83 Interpreter Releases 601, 618 (Apr. 3, 2006); 18 months to Jan. 5, 2009, 72 Fed. Reg. 29529 (May 29, 2007) (Honduras) and 72 Fed. Reg. 29534 (May 29, 2007) (Nicaragua), discussed and reproduced in 84 Interpreter Releases 1206, 1277 (Honduras) 84 Interpreter Releases 1206, 1282 (Nicaragua) (June 4, 2007); and 18 months to July 5, 2010, 73 Fed. Reg. 57133 (Oct. 1, 2008), (Honduras) and 73 Fed. Reg. 57138 (Oct. 1, 2008) (Nicaragua), discussed and reproduced in 85 Interpreter Releases 2636, 2689 (Oct. 6, 2008).

[FN48]. As to Honduras, see <http://link.reuters.com/tuz43k>. As to Nicaragua, see <http://link.reuters.com/vuz43k>
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