

## Form I-131A, Application for Travel Document (Carrier Documentation)

### Purpose

To allow lawful permanent residents (LPRs) who do not have a Green Card or reentry permit to apply for a travel document (carrier documentation) that permits a transportation carrier to allow them to board a flight or vessel to the United States without penalty.

### Who May File or Receive Service

You may apply for carrier documentation if you are an LPR and:

- You are returning from temporary international travel of less than one year and your Permanent Resident Card (also known as a Green Card or Form I-551) has been lost, stolen or destroyed.
- You are returning from temporary international travel of less than two years and your reentry permit (Form I-327) has been lost, stolen or destroyed.

The length of your absence from the United States will be measured from the time you departed the U.S. to the time you pay the fee for filing Form I-131A.

If you are an LPR with an expired Green Card, you may not need to file a Form I-131A. We encourage you check with your airline or vessel before filing a Form I-131A.

Although regulations generally require an LPR to travel with a valid Green card, CBP policy permits a transportation carrier bound for the United States to board an LPR *without carrier documentation* if you:

- Are an LPR who has an expired Green Card that was issued with a 10-year expiration date, or
- Are an LPR with an expired Green Card with a two-year expiration date AND you also have a Form I-797, Notice of Action, for Form I-751 or Form I-829 to remove the conditions on your permanent resident status. The Notice of Action extends the validity of the Green Card for a specified length of time, generally one year.

### Filing and Other Special Instructions

You may file in person at this office. We aim to process applications for carrier documentation within two weeks. The document will be valid for no more than 30 days and cannot be extended.

You must make an appointment to visit our office in Rome. Appointments can be made online at <https://infopass.uscis.gov>. **Before** scheduling your appointment you must contact our office either via email at [uscis.rome@uscis.dhs.gov](mailto:uscis.rome@uscis.dhs.gov) or over the phone at +39 06 4674 2190 (from 8.30 to 12.30). The office is closed on weekends and [American and Italian holidays](#).

It is recommended that you make an appointment with our office at least 1 week before you intend to travel back to the U.S. Please note that the USCIS office processes applications for

U.S. Lawful Permanent Residents who have been outside the United States for less than one year and who are intending return travel to the U.S. **within 30 days**.

Before appearing at this office to file a Form I-131A, you must pay the filing fee for this form online using the USCIS [online payment system](#). You may pay the fee with your credit or debit card or U.S. bank account. As with all immigration fees, [we do not issue refunds](#), regardless of the decision on the application.

### **What should I bring to the appointment?**

- Evidence that you paid the fee (such as a printed copy of your payment confirmation page or a printed copy of your emailed receipt).
- [Form I-131A](#)
- Your valid passport
- Your alien registration number or photocopy of your I-551 Permanent Resident Card (if available)
- Police Report (if your I-551 Permanent Resident Card was stolen)
- Flight ticket / electronic itinerary which shows your last departure from the U.S. and your upcoming return
- One passport photo

### **Child Born Abroad to a LPR**

If you are an LPR and your child is born abroad during a temporary absence from the United States, your child may enter the United States without a visa before he or she turns two years old if your child accompanies you on your first return to the United States. CBP's guidance indicates that an airline may board a child in this situation. If an airline refuses to board your child without carrier documentation, we can issue a transportation letter. You do not need to file Form I-131A or pay a fee for this service.

If your child does not come to the United States when you, the **LPR** parent *first* return to the United States, consult the U.S. Consulate or this USCIS office about the availability of an immigrant visa for your child.

### **Outside the U.S. For More than One Year**

If you have been outside of the United States for more than one year without a reentry permit (or more than two years with a reentry permit), you will need to either seek a returning resident visa (SB-1) with the Consular Section of the U.S. Consulate or U.S. Embassy nearest to you, or consult with the USCIS office that has jurisdiction over the country in which you are traveling about an alternative travel document.

For information about maintaining your residency receiving your Green Card, see our [After a Green Card is Granted](#) page.