



U.S. Customs and
Border Protection

JUL 26 2004

OFO:IPP:CB

MEMORANDUM FOR: DIRECTORS, FIELD OPERATIONS
DIRECTOR, PRECLEARANCE OPERATIONS

FROM: Acting Executive Director
Immigration Policy and Programs

SUBJECT: Expired Form I-551 Cards Presented at the POE

CBP Officers encountering an arriving Lawful permanent resident (LPR) in possession of an expired 10-year Permanent Resident Card, Form I-551 are to advise the LPR of the need to renew the card and furnish the LPR with the Form I-90, Application to Replace Permanent Resident Card (unless the LPR states that he or she already is already in possession of the Form I-90). No further action must be taken. At no time, is the Form I-551 to be cut, "clipped," or otherwise mutilated in any manner. These guidelines were established during the 1999 Form I-551 Renewal Process and remain in effect today.

These procedures apply only to renewal applicants with an expiring or expired 10-year Form I-551. This policy does not affect Conditional Permanent Residents in possession of Form I-551 with a 2-year expiration date. Conditional Permanent Residents in possession of an expired Form I-551 must continue to have evidence confirming that their conditional resident status has been extended.

BACKGROUND. The Immigration and Naturalization Service established the 10-year Form I-551 expiration cycle in 1989. Prior to the fixed expiration cycle, indefinite card validity created significant vulnerabilities to counterfeiting since card replacement did not incorporate technological improvements.

Directors, Field Operations should take the necessary steps to ensure that supervisors reiterate this policy to CBP Officers. Questions may be directed to Cheryl Becker at (202) 344-1944.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Hrinjak", written over a large, stylized circular flourish.

Michael J. Hrinjak