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Cheat Sheet: Categories Previously Eligible for Automatic Extensions

November 3, 2025

On October 30, 2025, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) issued the [Removal of the Automatic Extension of Employment Authorization Documents](#) Interim Final Rule (IFR), which ended the 540-day automatic extension of employment authorization documents (EADs) for applicants who file renewals in a timely manner. This automatic extension period provided an important economic stopgap for businesses to continue employing current employees in case it takes more than 6 months to adjudicate their renewal applications. [Processing times](#) for certain categories of employment authorization applications are near or over 6 months. Given the administration's ongoing goal to cut government personnel and increase enforcement operations, these processing times will only increase. Without access to this automatic extension, employers will be forced to fire their trained employees due to bureaucratic delays.

EADs are based on eligibility categories, not all of which had access to this 540-day automatic extension. DHS, the source of the available data on pending EADs, stated in the IFR that they are "unable to produce a tenable population estimate for the future population that may be affected by this IFR." However, [over 900 thousand](#) EAD applications have been pending for more than six months, and as of [June 30, 2025](#), 20 percent of all categories of renewal applications were pending longer than 180 days.

The following is a chart of categories of work authorization that will no longer have access to the 540-day automatic extension.

Category	Description
A03	Individual granted refugee status.
A05	Individual granted asylum status.
A07	A parent or child of a special immigrant. Special immigrants include religious workers, special immigrant juveniles (SIJ), and employees of the U.S. government or international organizations (such as NATO).
A08	Citizen of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, or Palau.
A10	Individuals granted withholding of removal (WOR). WOR is a level of protection that requires a higher standard of proof than asylum but does not include the benefits of asylum. It is usually given to individuals who are ineligible to apply for asylum, such as those who apply after one year of being in the United States.

Category	Description
A12	Individuals who have been granted Temporary Protected Status (TPS).
A17	Spouse of a principal E nonimmigrant. E visas are granted to individuals who come to the U.S. under a treaty of commerce between the U.S. and their home country, as well as specialty occupation workers from Australia.
A18	Spouse of a principal L-1 nonimmigrant. L-1 visas are given to executives, managers, or employees with specialized levels of knowledge to work in the U.S. office of an international company.
C08	Individual with a pending asylum application
C09	Adjustment of status through INA 245(i), a special process available for people physically present in the U.S. on April 30, 2001, that allows someone who would not otherwise be eligible to pursue a green card without leaving the country.
C10	Cancellation of Removal Applicants, among others. Cancellation of removal is a form of immigration relief that allows individuals in removal proceedings to adjust to LPR status. To be eligible, they must have a qualifying relationship with a U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident who would suffer extreme hardship if they were removed (e.g., a parent with a severely disabled U.S. citizen child may be eligible). They must also meet certain prerequisites such as having spent at least 10 years in the United States, good moral character, and no criminal record.
C16	Individuals who are eligible for green cards through the “registry.” The registry allows some undocumented long-term residents of the United States to pursue a green card provided they entered before January 1, 1972.
C19	Individuals who have been preliminarily (prima facie) approved for TPS.
C20	Individuals who are eligible for special agricultural worker (SAW) status under the Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA) of 1986.
C22	Individuals who are eligible for legal status under IRCA of 1986.
C24	Individuals who are eligible for legalization under the Legal Immigration Family Equity Act. Eligible individuals are primarily family members of U.S. citizens and green card holders.
C26	Spouses of certain H-1B nonimmigrants on H-4 nonimmigrant status.
C31	Individuals who petition for legal status as specified in the Violence Against Women Act. These individuals are domestic violence survivors—the spouse, child, or parent of a U.S. citizen or green card holder who abused them.

Source: USCIS, [https://www.uscis.gov/eadautoextendAutomatic Employment Authorization \(EAD\) Extension](https://www.uscis.gov/eadautoextendAutomatic Employment Authorization (EAD) Extension).