

**SUPPORTING STATEMENT FOR
Application to Preserve Residence for Naturalization
OMB Control No.: 1615-0056
COLLECTION INSTRUMENT(S): N-470**

A. Justification

- 1. Explain the circumstances that make the collection of information necessary. Identify any legal or administrative requirements that necessitate the collection. Attach a copy of the appropriate section of each statute and regulation mandating or authorizing the collection of information.**

Persons wishing to leave the United States must, under 8 U.S.C. 1427, complete the form N-470. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) uses the information collected on Form N-470 to determine whether an alien, who intends to be absent from the United States for a continuous period of a year or more is eligible to preserve residence for naturalization purposes. Applications shall be filed either before or after the applicant's employment commences but before the applicant has been absent from the United States for a continuous period of one year (8 CFR 316.5(d)).

- 2. Indicate how, by whom, and for what purpose the information is to be used. Except for a new collection, indicate the actual use the agency has made of the information received from the current collection.**

USCIS uses the data collected on this form to determine if the alien is eligible to preserve residence for naturalization purposes.

- 3. Describe whether, and to what extent, the collection of information involves the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses, and the basis for the decision for adopting this means of collection. Also describe any consideration of using information technology to reduce burden.**

The form N-470 is currently available online at <http://www.uscis.gov/files/form/n-470.pdf> and it can be downloaded and completed electronically. USCIS currently does not have the capability in place for the respondent to return the completed document electronically and the form is not scheduled for conversion to electronic intake at this time.

- 4. Describe efforts to identify duplication. Show specifically why any similar information already available cannot be used or modified for use for the purposes described in Item 2 above.**

The information collected on this form is specifically tailored for the action and benefit being sought by the respondent. There is no other collection of information available to complete this process. There is no duplication of information being collected.

5. If the collection of information impacts small businesses or other small entities (Item 5 of OMB Form 83-I), describe any methods used to minimize burden.

There is no impact to small businesses or other small entities as the respondents are individuals.

6. Describe the consequence to Federal program or policy activities if the collection is not conducted or is conducted less frequently, as well as any technical or legal obstacles to reducing burden.

This form is used by persons wanting to leave the country for extended periods of time without jeopardizing their continuous residence requirement for naturalization. If this form were not available, certain individuals would not be able to leave the country without repercussions to their naturalization eligibility.

7. Explain any special circumstances that would cause an information collection to be conducted in a manner:

- **Requiring respondents to report information to the agency more often than quarterly;**
- **Requiring respondents to prepare a written response to a collection of information in fewer than 30 days after receipt of it;**
- **Requiring respondents to submit more than an original and two copies of any document;**
- **Requiring respondents to retain records, other than health, medical, government contract, grant-in-aid, or tax records for more than three years;**
- **In connection with a statistical survey, that is not designed to produce valid and reliable results that can be generalized to the universe of study;**
- **Requiring the use of a statistical data classification that has not been reviewed and approved by OMB;**
- **That includes a pledge of confidentiality that is not supported by authority established in statute or regulation, that is not supported by disclosure and data security policies that are consistent with the pledge, or which unnecessarily impedes sharing of data with other agencies for compatible confidential use; or**

- **Requiring respondents to submit proprietary trade secret, or other confidential information unless the agency can demonstrate that it has instituted procedures to protect the information's confidentiality to the extent permitted by law.**

This information collection is conducted in a manner consistent with the guidelines in 5 CFR 1320.5(d)(2).

- 8. If applicable, provide a copy and identify the data and page number of publication in the Federal Register of the agency's notice, required by 5 CFR 1320.8(d), soliciting comments on the information collection prior to submission to OMB. Summarize public comments received in response to that notice and describe actions taken by the agency in response to these comments. Specifically address comments received on cost and hour burden.**

Describe efforts to consult with persons outside the agency to obtain their views on the availability of data, frequency of collection, the clarity of instructions and recordkeeping, disclosure, or reporting format (if any), and on the data elements to be recorded, disclosed, or reported.

Consultation with representatives of those from whom information is to be obtained or those who must compile records should occur at least once every 3 years - even if the collection of information activity is the same as in prior periods. There may be circumstances that may preclude consultation in a specific situation. These circumstances should be explained.

On July 13, 2015 USCIS published a 60-day notice in the Federal Register at 80 FR 40083. USCIS did not receive comments after publishing that notice. On December 9, 2015, USCIS published a 30-day notice in the Federal Register at 80 FR 76565. USCIS did not receive comments.

- 9. Explain any decision to provide any payment or gift to respondents, other than remuneration of contractors or grantees.**

USCIS does not provide any payment for benefit sought.

- 10. Describe any assurance of confidentiality provided to respondents and the basis for the assurance in statute, regulation or agency policy.**

There is no assurance of confidentiality. The associated system of records notice for this information collection is USCIS Benefits Information System. Published in the Federal Register on September 29, 2008 at 73 FR 56596. The related privacy impact assessment is USCIS Benefits Processing of Applicants other than Petitions for Naturalization, Refugee Status, and Asylum.

- 11. Provide additional justification for any questions of a sensitive nature, such as sexual behavior and attitudes, religious beliefs, and other matters that are commonly considered private. This justification should include the reasons why the agency considers the questions necessary, the specific uses to be made of the information, the explanation to be given to persons from whom the information is requested, and any steps to be taken to obtain their consent.**

There are no questions of a sensitive nature.

- 12. Provide estimates of the hour burden of the collection of information. The statement should:**

- **Indicate the number of respondents, frequency of response, annual hour burden, and an explanation of how the burden was estimated. Unless directed to do so, agencies should not conduct special surveys to obtain information on which to base hour burden estimates. Consultation with a sample (fewer than 10) of potential respondents is desirable. If the hour burden on respondents is expected to vary widely because of differences in activity, size, or complexity, show the range of estimated hour burden, and explain the reasons for the variance. Generally, estimates should not include burden hours for customary and usual business practices.**
- **If this request for approval covers more than one form, provide separate hour burden estimates for each form and aggregate the hour burdens in Item 13 of OMB Form 83-I.**
- **Provide estimates of annualized cost to respondents for the hour burdens for collections of information, identifying and using appropriate wage rate categories. The cost of contracting out or paying outside parties for information collection activities should not be included here. Instead, this cost should be included in Item 14.**

Type of Respondent	Form Name / Form Number	No. of Respondents	No. of Responses per Respondent	Avg. Burden per Response (in hours)	Total Annual Burden (in hours)	Avg. Hourly Wage Rate*	Total Annual Respondent Cost
Individual or Households	Application to Preserve Residence for Naturalization	330	1	.6	198	\$31.79	\$6,294

	Purposes / N-470 (Paper Submission)						
Total		330			198		\$6,294

* The above Average Hourly Wage Rate is the May 2014 Bureau of Labor Statistics average wage for All Occupations of \$22.71 times the wage rate benefit multiplier of 1.4 (to account for benefits provided) equaling \$31.79. When "All Occupations" is selected, include the following language: "The selection of "All Occupations" was chosen as the expected respondents for this collection could be expected to be from any occupation."

13. Provide an estimate of the total annual cost burden to respondents or record keepers resulting from the collection of information. (Do not include the cost of any hour burden shown in Items 12 and 14).

- The cost estimate should be split into two components: (a) a total capital and start-up cost component (annualized over its expected useful life); and (b) a total operation and maintenance and purchase of services component. The estimates should take into account costs associated with generating, maintaining, and disclosing or providing the information. Include descriptions of methods used to estimate major cost factors including system and technology acquisition, expected useful life of capital equipment, the discount rate(s), and the time period over which costs will be incurred. Capital and start-up costs include, among other items, preparations for collecting information such as purchasing computers and software; monitoring, sampling, drilling and testing equipment; and record storage facilities.
- If cost estimates are expected to vary widely, agencies should present ranges of cost burdens and explain the reasons for the variance. The cost of purchasing or contracting out information collection services should be a part of this cost burden estimate. In developing cost burden estimates, agencies may consult with a sample of respondents (fewer than 10), utilize the 60-day pre-OMB submission public comment process and use existing economic or regulatory impact analysis associated with the rulemaking containing the information collection, as appropriate.
- Generally, estimates should not include purchases of equipment or services, or portions thereof, made: (1) prior to October 1, 1995; (2) to achieve regulatory compliance with requirements not associated with the information collection; (3) for reasons other than to provide information or keep records for the government; or, (4) as part of customary and usual business or private practices.

Respondents to this collection of information may incur costs associated with obtaining documents to support answers, translation services, postage, and other costs as necessary. USCIS estimates that an average cost of \$122.50 per respondent may be incurred times

330 respondents equals a total of \$40,425.

There is a fee associated with this collection of information of \$330.

14. **Provide estimates of annualized cost to the Federal government. Also, provide a description of the method used to estimate cost, which should include quantification of hours, operational expenses (such as equipment, overhead, printing, and support staff), and any other expense that would not have been incurred without this collection of information. Agencies also may aggregate cost estimates from Items 12, 13, and 14 in a single table.**

Annualized Cost Analysis:

a.	Printing Cost	\$	135
b.	Collection and Processing Cost	\$	<u>108,900</u>
c.	Total Cost to Government	\$	109,035

Government Cost

The estimated cost to the Government is estimated by multiplying the number of respondents (330) by the fee charge of \$330 (which includes the average hourly rate for clerical, officer, and managerial time with benefits, plus a percent for the estimated cost of stocking, distributing and processing this form).

15. **Explain the reasons for any program changes or adjustments reporting in Items 13 or 14 of the OMB Form 83-I.**

Data collection Activity/Instrument	Program Change (hours currently on OMB Inventory)	Program Change (New)	Difference	Adjustment (hours currently on OMB Inventory)	Adjustment (New)	Difference
N-470				315	198	(117)
Total(s)				315	198	(117)

The change in hour burden is due to a better estimate in the number of respondents expected to complete the form. Also, the total number of respondents and annual hour burden has decreased from the amount posted in the 60 and 30-day FRNs for this collection due to the form no longer in progress for collection electronically.

Data collection	Program	Program	Difference	Adjustment	Adjustment	Difference
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Activity/Instrument	Change (cost currently on OMB Inventory)	Change (New)		Cost (cost currently on OMB Inventory)	Cost (New)	
N-470				0	\$40,425	\$40,425
Total(s)				0	\$40,425	\$40,425

The change in cost burden is due to a USCIS now reporting an estimate in cost. Also, the annual cost burden has decreased from the amount posted in the 60 and 30-day FRNs for this collection due to the form no longer in progress for collection electronically and a reduction in the number of respondents expected to complete this form.

- 16. For collections of information whose results will be published, outline plans for tabulation, and publication. Address any complex analytical techniques that will be used. Provide the time schedule for the entire project, including beginning and ending dates of the collection of information, completion of report, publication dates, and other actions.**

This information collection will not be published for statistical purposes.

- 17. If seeking approval to not display the expiration date for OMB approval of the information collection, explain the reasons that display would be inappropriate.**

USCIS will display the expiration date for OMB approval of this information collection.

- 18. Explain each exception to the certification statement identified in Item 19, "Certification for Paperwork Reduction Act Submission," of OMB 83-I.**

USCIS does not request an exception to the certification of this information collection.

B. Collections of Information Employing Statistical Methods.

There is no statistical methodology involved with this collection.