Public Comments (regulations.gov): <u>USCIS-2011-0015</u> **60-day FRN Citation** (federalregister.gov): <u>88 FR 55065</u> **Publish Dates**: August 14, 2023 – October 13, 2023

Comment #/Topic	Commenter ID	Comment	USCIS Response
1.		Commenter: Elissa Taub	
•	O020		Response: USCIS understands the important role attorneys and accredited representatives play in their clients' immigration journeys. We continue to work on enhancements to the myUSCIS online account and online filing experience. The new Organizational Account experience will eliminate the passcode linking process for attorneys working with company clients. USCIS believes the new invitation- based process will facilitate a better H-1B Registration filing experience for our attorney and company customers. USCIS hopes to expand this process to representatives working with individual clients as well. Attorneys can file a standalone Form G-28 in their representative account to link to cases their clients have filed online themselves. Once the case is linked to the attorney's account, the attorney will also receive any notices, including RFEs, that are sent to the client.

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rolling out online filing of H-1Bs.

In addition, my individual clients are all creating MyUSCIS accounts, which is great for them to get information about their cases. But I'm finding that their case information is not also showing up in my account, so they are obtaining information about cases before I do. In some cases, my client has responded to a Request for Evidence (RFE) without consulting me, which has left them at risk for denial of a pending application. I urge USCIS to better integrate attorneys into the online filing process so that we can fully represent our clients by having access to the same information at the same time they do.

Finally, online filing by an attorney currently involves our sharing a code with our client to facilitate their acknowledgment and assent to the filing. The process is cumbersome and time-consuming. Often it requires a video meeting to share screens to ensure the client reviews the application and follows the filing instructions. On some days, we file multiple H-1B petitions for the same client, which would require multiple codes and collaboration. I urge USCIS to devise a different way of confirming a client's consent to filing than the code sharing when it comes to H-1B filings. The requirement will make the process of filing H-1Bs frustrating for employers and attorneys.

I thank USCIS for moving toward electronic filings. Overall, this move

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	should be better for attorneys and	
	our clients. Unfortunately, the	
	process is not set up for attorney use.	
	Because most H-1Bs are filed by	
	counsel, it is important that USCIS	
	acknowledge the vital role that	
	attorneys play in the process and	
	make the filing process simple and	
	easy to use for us and our clients.	
2.	Commenter: AILA	
		Response:
	1. General Comment. This Federal	General comment response:
	Register notice only includes	Cap-exempt Form I-129
	individuals/households and business	filers will be able to use
	or other for-profit entities. Are cap-	myUSCIS online company
	exempt petitioners intentionally	accounts to file H-1B
	omitted? If USCIS intends to include	petitions.
	cap-exempt petitioners in this	, and a second s
	Federal Register notice, we	
	recommend changing the language to	
	state: "business and other sponsoring	
	organizations."	
	organizations.	
	2. Slide 42. Merging Administrator	Slide 42 response: Merging
	Accounts. While we understand the	and deleting company
	slide states that merging of	administrator accounts will
	Administrator Accounts is not	not be available in the first
	possible, AILA attorneys who have	release. USCIS encourages
	utilized the myUSCIS system believe	companies to take
	the time required for businesses to	advantage of the ability to
	reset an Administrator Account and	have more than one
	resolve issues with duplicate	company administrator in a
	1	' '
	Administrator Accounts will	company group. This can
	significantly exceed the 0.167 hours	help ensure that a company
	estimated in the Federal Register. For	remains able to access
	example, if an Administrator from a	previously filed registrations
	business filed a registration on	and cases, even if a single
	myUSCIS, and then left the business	company administrator
	without providing the account login	leaves the company group.
	to this business, it will likely take far	
	more than 0.167 hours for a new	USCIS plans to conduct
	Administrator to recover the	usability testing and
	account.1 A solution previously	continue to iterate on the
	proposed by USCIS Technical	company account with the

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Assistance was to use a new email address to set up another Administrator Account for this business. However, if a business utilizes this solution, all previously filed registrations or cases will not be accessible in the new account. Until a solution can be found for Administrator Account reset and merge, this issue will be a significant deterrent for businesses to utilize the system.

goal of improving the customer experience. USCIS hopes to make it possible to merge and delete accounts in the future.

The estimated time burden for this information collection accounts for the time needed to fill out the company profile and administrator profile information.

3. Slide 44. The example on this slide lists one tax ID number, which in turn generated four businesses from the search. Because business entities may share the same name 3 (and D/B/A), we recommend that USCIS provides at least one more column of identifiable information such as city/state, etc. so that the user can easily verify the correct business entity to set up the Administrator Account.

Slide 44 response: USCIS will take this comment under advisement and determine if a third data point could be included in this table.

4. Slide 45. The fact that business Administrator Accounts cannot be merged or deleted after they are created and that forms and H-1B registrations prepared or submitted in one business Administrator Account cannot be transferred to a different company administrator account is concerning. For example, how does one business administrator or company member check to determine if another person at the company is filing the same registrations in another account, resulting in duplicate registrations? If there is a large company with the

Slide 45 response: USCIS understands the commenter's concern about merging and deletion of company accounts not being available in the first release of the new company account functionality. As indicated in our response to the comment about slide 42, a company group may have more than one company administrator account associated with it. All company administrators and company members within a

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same FEIN that has multiple administrators and administrator email addresses, would these administrators be able to file the same registration at the same time? We recommend that USCIS develop a safeguard for a single-FEIN company's internal administrators to reconcile multiple account activity.

company group will be able to see H-1B Registrations and I-129 cases prepared within the company group.

The functionality that allows administrators to check for duplicates for H-1B Registrations will continue to be available under the new company account structure.

USCIS hopes to introduce additional merging and delete features for accounts in the future.

5. Slide 46. While we recognize the cautionary language on this slide, there is still a possibility that a business administrator will go forward with setting up an account without checking internally. Also, business structures are not always clearly defined. One business can have several operating divisions/departments, using one FEIN, but having multiple administrators. We believe USCIS should provide a real-time check within the system to alert a user if there is another Administrator Account for a business with the same FEIN.

Slide 46 response: USCIS believes the requested functionality of a real-time check to alert a user that another company administrator account has already been created is addressed by the "Search for your company" functionality (see slides 43-44). This functionality compares the taxpayer identification number entered in the search field to existing company administrator accounts. If an account with the same taxpayer ID number already exists, a list will be displayed, and the customer can either request to join the existing company group or proceed with setting up another company administrator account.

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USCIS will conduct outreach and public engagement for companies and attorneys in advance of the release of this new functionality to ensure awareness in these communities of the process for setting up company administrator accounts. USCIS hopes to provide functionality for companies to merge or delete company administrator accounts in the future.

6. Slide 48. When listing the business mailing address, the form prompts for a street name and number. Because of the increasing trend for virtual office businesses to have no formal brick and mortar address, AILA recommends USCIS add "or P.O. Box" to the mailing address section of the business profile.

Slide 48: USCIS declines to make this change. The address fields in the company profile are predicated on the mailing address fields in Form I-129, Petition for Nonimmigrant Worker. Form I-129 does not include any language about "P.O. Box" as part of the mailing address.

7. Slide 53. Although USCIS notes that, if the information is incorrect, the individual should not accept the invitation, is it possible to withdraw an invitation if it is incorrect and accidentally accepted? While it may be possible to remove the member, we recommend an added functionality or an option to withdraw an invitation instead of waiting for the invitation to be rejected or removed at a later time. In addition, the instructions note that, if the information is incorrect,

Slide 53 response: The initial release of this new feature does not include functionality to withdraw an invitation. However, USCIS plans to release invitation withdrawal functionality in the future. Invitations will expire seven (7) days after they are sent, so they will not exist in perpetuity. If the sender of an invitation is notified of an error, they may send a corrected

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the individual should sign out of the account and notify the company administrator to correct the information and send a new invitation. The slide does not describe how an administrator can correct the information without a withdrawal option.

invitation without the need to withdraw the first. The recipient will be able to review and accept the corrected invitation without having to take any action on the incorrect invitation.

8. Slide 63. The language under Company Name [H3], "If you are an individual petitioner creating a company group, provide your legal name (not the company name) in this field," is confusing. If the individual petitioner's business has a separate company name, would that name then be listed as the "D/B/A Name?" We recommend that USCIS clarify the language for these two questions to minimize the possibility that petitioners will list incorrect information. 4

Slide 63 response: USCIS is removing this instructional language so as not to cause confusion that an individual petitioner can provide their business/company name here. The petitioner's name will continue to be requested as part of their personal profile on the My Profile page.

9. Slide 67. There is a redline ("users") that has apparently been left in the document accidentally. On a related issue, does the term "user" mean administrator, member, or representative (or all of the above)? There appears to be a switch in terminology, from role (e.g., member or representative) to user, with the terms apparently used interchangeably.

Slide 67 response: USCIS has corrected the accidental inclusion of this strikethrough.

"User" is used generally to refer to those who have access within the company account. "Role" is used to be more specific to the type of access the individual(s) have within the account.

10.Slide 75. This slide indicates that, "[i]f you believe this change was made in error, contact a company

Slide 75 response: USCIS declines to make this change.

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administrator." After this sentence, would it be possible for USCIS add a field for an email address/other contact info so the user can contact the administrator?

11.Slide 85. In the second paragraph of this slide, it is noted that [attorneys] can "share information and work with paralegals who are part of their team and who they have invited to work on forms for your company." Could USCIS provide more information on how the attorney enterprise account will function? Will attorneys be able to create enterprise accounts with paralegals and other attorneys at one firm similar to the company Administrator Account or will the representative user interface be different?

Slide 85 response: In the initial Organizational Account release, a representative can invite paralegals to collaborate, but cannot invite other attorney/accredited representatives to be part of their group. USCIS hopes to provide the ability for representatives to include other representatives in their group in a future release. USCIS will conduct outreach and public engagement to provide additional opportunities for representatives and companies to understand how the Organizational Account will work.

12.Slides 85-86. If attorneys/representatives cannot view H-1B registrations or petitions started by a company administrator, then a potential issue with duplicate H1B registrations will exist. As a practical matter, they will have to ask the company administrator to take screen shots to enable them to make sure no duplicates have been created. If the company has a large number of registrations, it will be extremely difficult/cumbersome to verify whether there is a duplicate

Slides 85-86 response: Just like under the current registrant account, H-1B registrations must be created in the attorney account, with the company client reviewing and signing the drafts in their registrant (now company) account before returning the draft to the attorney account for payment and submission. Companies working with an attorney during the H-1B

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registration paid for by the company	registration period should
administrator. Accordingly, we	not submit any registrations
recommend that USCIS develop a	through their own accounts
technological safeguard to enable	if they would like to share
companies to check, prior to	access to those registrations
submission, for any/all duplicate	with their legal
registrations that may have been	representatives.
inadvertently created by company	
administrators and/or their	The functionality to check
attorneys.	duplicates for submitted H-
	1B registrations that was
	available during past H-1B
	registration periods will
	continue to be available.