

SUPPORTING STATEMENT FOR
Petition for a Nonimmigrant Worker: H-2A Classification
OMB Control No.: 1615-0150
COLLECTION INSTRUMENT(S): Form I-129H2A

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.**

USCIS needs the information collected through this form to determine whether an alien is eligible for the H-2A nonimmigrant classification. The statutory authority is section 101(a)(15), 103, 214(a), 214(c)(1); 218(a), and 248 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (Act), codified at 8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15), 1103, 8 U.S.C. 1184(a), 8 U.S.C. 1184(c)(1), 8 U.S.C. 1188(a), and 8 U.S.C. 1258, and the regulatory authority is 8 CFR 214.1, 8 CFR 214.2(h)(1)(ii)(C), (h)(2)(i), (h)(5), (h)(9) through (h)(19), and 8 CFR 248.1. A U.S. employer, or agent in some instances, may file a petition for nonimmigrant worker to employ foreign nationals under the H-2A nonimmigrant classification.

In addition to the collection of data entries directly on the form, this form also provides the avenue through which employers or agents submit documentary evidence to establish eligibility for the nonimmigrant classification being sought.

Biometric information is required to be collected from a beneficiary in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) or if requested in accordance with 8 CFR 103.2(b)(9). DHS may collect and store for present or future use, by electronic or other means, the biometric information submitted by an individual. DHS may use this biometric information to conduct background and security checks, adjudicate the nonimmigrant petition, and perform other functions related to administering and enforcing the immigrant and nationality laws.

- 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 eligibility for the H-2A nonimmigrant classification and/or requests to extend or change nonimmigrant status. (See USCIS response to Question 1 of this supporting statement, above). An employer (or agent, where applicable) uses this form to petition USCIS for a noncitizen to temporarily enter as an H-2A agricultural nonimmigrant worker. An employer (or agent, where applicable) also uses this form to request an extension of stay or change of status on behalf of the nonimmigrant worker. The form serves the purpose of standardizing

requests for nonimmigrant workers in the H-2A classification and ensuring that basic information required for assessing eligibility is provided by the petitioner. It also assists USCIS in compiling information required by Congress annually to assess effectiveness and utilization of certain nonimmigrant classifications.

USCIS also uses the data to determine continued eligibility. For example, the data collected is used in compliance reviews and other inspections to ensure that all program requirements are being met.

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.**

Form I-129H2A can be accessed on the USCIS website at www.uscis.gov/i-129h2a. Form I-129H2A can be downloaded, filled out, and saved electronically, and submitted to USCIS using PDF Intake Process (PDFi) through a USCIS Online Account. The petitioner would upload the completed Form I-129H2A and any supporting documentation, pay any required fee, and file their petition as a .pdf online. The associated burden for setting up a USCIS Online Account is covered under the OMB Control Number 1615-0122. Form I-129H2A can also be printed, signed, and submitted to USCIS by mail.

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.**

USCIS has no other information collections that request the information specifically needed to adjudicate petitions for nonimmigrant workers in an H-2A classification. USCIS has reviewed data collections from the U.S. Department of Labor's temporary labor certification process that our adjudicators can access and rely upon per existing data-sharing agreements and specifically eliminated those that were previously duplicated on the H-2A petition for which USCIS does not have an independent need. USCIS will continue to examine ways in which information may be obtained from other sources and any identified duplications can be minimized or removed.

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.**

USCIS minimizes the amount of information collected from the affected small businesses to reduce the burden placed upon them. USCIS requests only information which is needed by officers to determine the petitioner's and beneficiary's eligibility. This includes information that will reduce the likelihood that USCIS may need to issue a request for evidence (RFE) to the petitioner upon review of the petition and initial

evidence submission. USCIS has included information in the instructions of the Form I-129H2A to provide additional guidance to assist small businesses with the completion of the form, on reduced fees for small employers and non-profits, as well as guidance for filing multiple petitions.

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 information collection is only conducted whenever a form is filed seeking H-2A nonimmigrant classification for a foreign worker. Without this information collection, USCIS would not have the information needed to make eligibility determinations under sections 101(a)(15), 214, 218 and 248 of the INA, 8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15), 1184, 1188 and 1258.

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 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 January 29, 2026, USCIS published a 60-day notice in the Federal Register at 91 FR 3912. USCIS received two comments after publishing that notice. USCIS's responses to the public comments can be found in the following attachment shown in the Supplementary Documents: *60-Day Public Comment Response Matrix*.

On May 27, 2026, USCIS published a 30-day notice in the Federal Register at 91 FR 31473. USCIS received one comment after publishing that notice. USCIS's responses to the public comments can be found in the following attachment shown in the Supplementary Documents: *30-Day Public Comment Response Matrix*.

- 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 or gift to respondents filing Form I-129H2A.

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

USCIS provides assurance of confidentiality for protected classes of immigrants consistent with 8 C.F.R. § 208.6 and 8 U.S.C. § 1367. Additional assurances are derived from the Privacy Act of 1974, 5 U.S.C 552a and the E-Government Act of 2002.

This collection is covered under the following Privacy Impact Assessments:

- DHS/USCIS/PIA-003(b) Integrated Digitization Document Management Program, February 28, 2017;

- DHS/USCIS/PIA-010 Person Centric Query Service (PCQS), April 6, 2018;
- DHS/USCIS/PIA 016 Computer Linked Application Information Management System (CLAIMS 3) and Associated Systems, June 30, 2020;
- DHS/USCIS/PIA-044 Validation Instrument for Business Enterprises (VIBE), December 14, 2021;
- DHS/USCIS/PIA-056 USCIS Electronic Immigration System (USCIS ELIS), September 30, 2024;
- DHS/USCIS/PIA-079 - Content Management Services (CMS), October 15, 2024; and
- State Department Consular Consolidated Database (CCD) PIA, November 2022.

The collection is covered under the following System of Records Notices:

- DHS/USCIS/ICE/CBP-001 Alien File, Index, and National File Tracking System of Records, September 18, 2017, 82 FR 43556;
- DHS/USCIS-006 Fraud Detection and National Security Records (FDNS), August 8, 2012, 77 FR 47411;
- DHS/USCIS-007 Benefits Information System, October 10, 2019, 84 FR 54622;
- DHS/USCIS-018 Immigration Biometric and Background Check (IBBC) System of Records, July 31, 2018, 83 FR 36950; and
- STATE-05, Overseas Citizens Service Records and Other Overseas Records, September 8, 2016, 81 FR 62235.

- 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.**

Form I-129H2A asks for the petitioner's and beneficiary's Social Security Numbers (SSN), if they have one. The SSN helps ensure USCIS can properly identify the beneficiary listed on the Form by serving as a distinguishing data point when multiple individuals have the same/similar names and dates of birth. Since USCIS does not generally currently require biometrics submission from Form I-129H2A beneficiaries, information like the SSN may be important for checking background information on the requested beneficiary.

- 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.

		A	B	C (=AxB)	D	E (=CxD)	F	(=ExF)
Type of Respondent	Form Name / Number	#. of Respondents ¹	#. of Responses per Respondent	# of Responses	Avg. Burden per Response (in hours) ²	Total Annual Burden (in hours)	Avg. Hourly Wage Rate*	Total Annual Respondent Cost
Business or other for-profit; Not-for-profit organizations	I-129H2A (PDFi)	23,873	1	23,873	4.59	109,577	\$57.99	\$6,354,374
Business or other for-profit; Not-for-profit organizations	I-129H2A (Paper)	2,652	1	2,652	4.85	12,863	\$57.99	\$745,925
Total				26,525		122,440		\$7,100,300

* The above Average Hourly Wage Rate is the May 2023 Bureau of Labor Statistics average wage for Business and Financial Operations Occupations of \$39.72 times the wage rate benefit multiplier of 1.46 (to account for benefits provided) equaling \$57.99.

13. Provide an estimate of the total annual cost burden to respondents or record

¹ The estimated total number of respondents is based on average H-2A filings for the previous four fiscal years. USCIS has no information that would indicate that the trend would vary so we expect filings to remain stable.

² The estimated average burden per response covers the use of the form for both named and unnamed beneficiaries.

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.

There are no capital or start-up costs associated with this information collection.

This information collection may impose some out-of-pocket costs on respondents in addition to the time burden for the form's preparation. Costs may include payments for document translation and preparation services, attorney and legal fees, postage, and costs associated with gathering documentation. USCIS estimates that the average cost for these activities is \$515. The estimated out of pocket cost to respondents is calculated as follows: 26,525 annual respondents multiplied by the average cost per response of \$515 which equals a total annual cost of **\$13,660,375**.

For informational purposes, the filing fees for Form I-129H2A can be found in the G-1055, Fee Schedule.

- 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.

USCIS establishes its fees using an activity-based costing model to assign costs to an adjudication based on its relative adjudication burden and use of USCIS resources. Fees are established at an amount that is necessary to recover these assigned costs, plus an amount to recover unassigned overhead (which includes the clerical, officer, and managerial time with benefits), and immigration benefits provided for free. USCIS uses the fee associated with an information collection as a reasonable measure of the collection's costs to USCIS, since these fees are based on resource expenditures related to the benefit in question. In addition, this figure includes the estimated overhead cost for printing, stocking, distributing and processing of this form. USCIS has established various fees for Form I-129H2A based on the type of beneficiaries requested (see question 13 for more information). The estimated calculation includes the Asylum Program Fee.

The total estimated cost to the Federal government is **\$34,155,330**.

Cost Description	Respondents	Amount	Asylum Program Fee	Total
H-2A named	7,468	\$1,090	\$600	\$12,620,920
H-2A unnamed	19,057	\$530	\$600	\$21,534,410
Total Est. Cost	26,525			\$34,155,330

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

This collection of information is reinstating a previously approved information collection, with change. The estimated annual hourly burden and cost burden to respondents for information collection will be newly reported as a result of this action.

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.