



**U.S. Department of Justice**  
Immigration and Naturalization Service

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*425 I Street NW  
Washington, DC 20536*

January 8, 2002

MEMORANDUM FOR REGIONAL DIRECTORS  
DISTRICT DIRECTORS  
OFFICERS-IN-CHARGE  
SERVICE CENTER DIRECTORS  
FORMS CENTER DIRECTORS  
TELEPHONE CENTER DIRECTORS  
CUSTOMER SERVICE DIRECTOR

FROM: William R. Yates  
Deputy Executive Associate Commissioner  
Immigration Services Division  
Office of Field Operations

SUBJECT: The 10/13/98N version of Form I-539, Revised Recently With an  
"N" Designation, Shall Be Accepted Until March 30, 2002.

Because of delays in printing the recently revised Form I-539, Application to Extend/Change Nonimmigrant Status, the Service is instructing field offices, service centers and other offices that receive filed applications from the public to accept the 10/13/98N version of the form through March 30, 2002.

This action will enable form centers, now scheduled to receive the newly printed Form I-539 in January 2002, to distribute the revised form to field offices and the public during the second quarter of Fiscal Year 2002. During this time, the Service will continue accepting the 10/13/98N edition of Form I-539, effectively amending the "N" designation instructions on the revised form.

Memorandum for: Regional Directors District Directors  
Officers-In Charge, Service Center Directors, Forms Center Directors,  
Telephone Center, Directors, Customer Service Center Director

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Form I-539 was revised on September 4, 2001, with an "N" designation, meaning that the prior version of the form may not be used by the public or accepted by the Service after that date. Due to normal printing and field distribution processes, which usually take approximately 60 days, the Service considered those factors at that time and revised the Form I-539 instructions to note that the 10/13/98N version of the form could be used until December 31, 2001. The recent printing delays, however, prompted this further extension until March 30, 2002.

In the interest of customer service, the instructions on the revised Form I-539 were changed to list the nonimmigrant categories in alphabetical order, from an A, Ambassador, Public Minister, or Career Diplomat or Consular Officer to a V, Spouse or Child of a Lawful Permanent Resident. Detailed information on the new V nonimmigrant classification was included in the instructions. The instructions were also updated to advise certain nonimmigrants, namely F-1 and M-1 students and TD and E dependents, where to file their applications, and to inform all other nonimmigrants to file their applications at the service center that has jurisdiction over their residence.

To inform our external customers that the Service will accept the 10/13/98N version of the revised Form I-539 until March 30, 2002, copies of this memorandum will be distributed to the national office of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA), Interpreter Releases, and national and local community-based organizations. The memorandum will also be placed on the INS Internet web site.

For further information, contact E. B. Duarte, Jr., Branch Chief, Customer Service Coordination Branch, Headquarters, Immigration Services Division, at 202/514-7464.