U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR Employment & Training Administration



Permanent (PERM) Labor Certification Program

PERM Appeals Submission and Practice Tips

June 13, 2018

Office of Foreign Labor Certification (OFLC) Atlanta National Processing Center (ANPC)

For Government Training Use Only (June 13, 2018)

Disclaimer



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Department of Labor: PERM Program *Presenters*

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Department of Labor: Overview

- I. The PERM Appeal Process Introduction and Overview
- II. Common Issues
- III. Post Board of Alien Labor Certification Appeals (BALCA) Actions
- IV. Filing Tips
- V. Methods of Submission
- VI. Uploading Appeal Requests Through the Permanent Online System
- VII. Resources for PERM Labor Certification Applications

Section I

The PERM Appeal Process -Introduction and Overview

What is the PERM Appeal Process?

- Per 20 CFR 656.24(g), it is an opportunity for an employer to request a Certifying Officer (CO) reconsider denial of an PERM labor certification application (ETA Form 9089)
- Per 20 CFR 656.26, it is an opportunity for an employer to <u>directly</u> request BALCA review a CO's decision to deny an ETA Form 9089

Request for Reconsideration (Reconsideration) VS.

Request for Review (Review)

R	econsideration		Review
• 20 C	FR 656.24(g)(1)		20 CFR 656.26
 May revoor 	not be used to "appeal" cation of certifications	•	May be used to "appeal" revocation of certifications
 The evide previ 	CO will not consider ence the employer did not ously submit	•	May only include evidence the CO considered to deny the application
The final	CO (OFLC) makes the decision	•	BALCA makes the final decision

PERM Appeal Process Overview

- The ANPC receives PERM appeals (Request for Reconsideration or Request for Review)
 - All appeal requests **must** be filed with ANPC
 - The ANPC reviews and analyzes all Requests for Reconsideration to make a decision
 - The ANPC only prepares and submits a case file to BALCA for Requests for Review. No ANPC review involved.

Appeal Process Overview (continued)

- Requests for Reconsideration
 - The CO will either **overturn** or **uphold** the <u>initial</u> denial reason(s)
- The CO may request additional information through a Request for Information (RFI) letter prior to making a final decision
 - The employer must respond to the RFI within the allotted timeperiod (usually fifteen (15) days)
 - If the employer fails to timely respond, the ANPC will adjudicate the Request for Reconsideration based on the information provided in the initial request
 - If the employer timely responds, the CO will consider the information the employer provided (in addition to the initial arguments the employer made) to adjudicate the Request for Reconsideration

Appeal Process Overview (continued)

- An overturn occurs when the CO makes a favorable decision to re-evaluate the denial reason(s) and either:
 - Certifies the application; or
 - Resets the application for additional processing.
- An uphold occurs when the CO agrees with the denial reason(s)

Appeal Process Overview (continued)

- If upheld, the CO will document the reason(s) why he or she did not accept the employer's arguments in a Notice of Decision (NOD) letter
 - The employer has **30 days to respond to a NOD**
 - If the employer does not timely respond, OFLC will administratively withdraw the Request for Reconsideration from processing. OFLC will not forward it to BALCA for Review.
 - If the employer timely responds <u>and</u> seeks to continue, OFLC will forward the Request for Review to BALCA

Section II

Common Issues

- There are <u>two</u> options for filing an appeal:
 - Request for Reconsideration (Reconsideration)
 - Request for Review (Review)
- How does an employer submit a request for reconsideration or review to the ANPC?
 - The employer must clearly identify in its cover letter that it is making a Request for Review
 - If the employer does not specify the type of request, the ANPC will process the case as a Reconsideration
 - If the employer requests both Reconsideration and Review, the ANPC will process the case as a Reconsideration

Can an employer modify the information it submitted on the ETA Form 9089?

- No. An employer cannot make modifications to the ETA Form 9089 after it has been filed. 20 CFR § 656.11(b).
- If the ANPC denies the application, the employer may request Reconsideration within 30 calendar days from the date of the denial letter. If the CO:
 - Accepts the employer's request, the CO will make the change(s) to the ETA Form 9089 and certify the application or reset it for additional processing; or,
 - Does not accept the employer's request, the CO will issue a NOD informing the employer that it may make a Request for Review with BALCA, affirmatively in writing, no later than thirty (30) calendar days from the date on the NOD.

- What happens after the CO makes a decision to uphold a Request for Reconsideration?
 - If, after considering the Request for Reconsideration, the CO makes a decision to uphold the reason(s) for denial, the employer will receive a NOD letter
 - The NOD letter will outline the reason(s) for upholding the denial
 - The employer has 30 days to respond to the NOD letter

- What happens after the CO makes a decision to uphold a Request for Reconsideration? (continued)
 - If the employer does not respond to the NOD letter within 30 days, OFLC will administratively withdraw the request
 - If the employer responds to the NOD letter within 30 days with a Request for Review, OFLC will forward the request to BALCA. The employer will receive e-mail notification confirming OFLC sent the case file to BALCA.

- If the employer filed a Request for Reconsideration, can the employer later change it to a Request for Review?
 - If less than 30 days have passed from the date of Final Determination, the employer may change its Request for Reconsideration to a Request for Review
- How can an employer check the status of a Request for Reconsideration?
 - E-mail the ANPC help desk at <u>plc.atlanta@dol.gov;</u> or
 - Go to <u>icert.doleta.gov</u> and check the "Reconsideration Requests to the CO" processing times for general information.

Section III

Post-BALCA Actions

What happens after BALCA makes a decision on a Request for Review?

- BALCA will notify, in writing (U.S. mail), both the CO and the employer when it has made a decision
- BALCA can either uphold or overturn the CO's decision
 - The ANPC will enter the decision to uphold or overturn a denial into the Permanent Online System. The case status in iCERT will either:
 - For upholds → revert to "Denied;" or
 - For overturns → show either "In Process" (if the case is reset for additional processing) or "Certified"

- What if the ANPC does not enter the BALCA decision into the Permanent Online System?
 - You may:
 - Upload a copy of the BALCA decision to the Permanent Online System; or
 - E-mail a copy of the BALCA decision to the ANPC help desk at <u>plc.atlanta@dol.gov</u>.
 - Upon receipt, the CO will review the BALCA decision and enter the appropriate action into the Permanent Online System

- What if the BALCA decision is not entered in the Permanent Online System? (continued)
 - The employer also can check the Office of Administrative Law Judges (OALJ) website at <u>www.oalj.dol.gov</u>
 - Use the search functionality to determine whether BALCA has made a decision
 - A .PDF document will be available for download if a decision has been made

Office of Administrative	ATES INT OF LABOR Law Judges	Subscribe to <u>E-mail Updates</u> Enter E-mail Address A to Z Index Site Map F	SUBSCRIBE AQs DOL Form	Search: ALL OALJ for: ms About DOL Contact Us Español nt This Page Text Size E-mail This P	age	Enter foreign
About OALJ <u>Overview</u> <u>About the Chief Judge</u> <u>OALJ FAQs</u> [Preguntas Frecuentes] <u>Organizational Chart</u> Notices and Policies <u>Alternative Dispute Resolution - Settlement Judges and Mediation Sensiese</u>	Office of Administrative Law Juc Featured Postings Enhanced Access to ALJ Orders Since the fall of 2000, OALJ has published all final on the public website at www.oalj.dol.gov. Effection OALJ expanded its website publication to include a decisions, orders, and notices made in the adjudic exceptions for documents that are FOIA exempt. T Users can access these documents through both to DMS Search Option 2. Case Status Lookup	ALJ decisions and selected or ve Tuesday, October 31, 2017 all ALJ final decisions, interim ration of cases, with limited This change was prospective of the <u>Case Status Lookup</u> and th	rders 7, only. ne	March 22, 201 Search Options Option 1: Full Text by Topic Search: ALL OALJ for: DALJ Advanced Search Page Search all DOL	8	worker's name (claimant) and/or
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Section IV

Filing Tips

Filing Tips and Information

- Make sure scanned documents are clear and legible
- Use the upload function in the Permanent Online System
- There is no longer a separate queue for **Government Error**
- Clearly indicate whether the employer is making a Request for Reconsideration (656.24(g)) or Review (656.26)
 - Unspecified or both = Request for Reconsideration

Filing Tips and Information (continued)

- If responding to a "non-response" denial, include the "missing" documentation and proof it was timely filed with the Request for Reconsideration
 - For example, if denied for "non-response to audit," provide the audit documentation (with proof of submission)
- Respond to the NOD letter. If the employer does not respond timely, the ANPC will administratively withdraw the appeal request and conclude processing.
- Do NOT include information that was not part of the file at the time the employer submitted it (e.g. referral letters requested or received after the employer filed the application)

Filing Tips and Information (continued)

- Subscribe to the OFLC website (<u>www.foreignlaborcert.doleta.gov</u>) by entering your e-mail address to receive content updates, including FAQs
- Review <u>www.oalj.dol.gov</u> for BALCA-related information and decisions

Section V

Methods of Submission

Submission Instructions

- 1. <u>Preferred Method</u>: Upload documents to the Permanent Online System
 - Provides a faster application processing time
 - Reduces employer costs (e.g. no mailing cost)
 - Can be done in four easy steps

Employer Benefits Related to Uploading

The employer receives many benefits, which include:

- Immediate confirmation of successful upload;
- The ability to upload each section under the respective drop-down;
- Reduction in costs and burdens from not having to submit documentation via mail, e-mail, or facsimile;
- Streamlined process for submitting responsive documents;
- Expedited review of PERM labor certification applications by connecting the responsive documents directly to the application; and
- Integrity and receipt of information submitted.

Reminders

- The maximum size limit for saving a single uploaded document is 30MB
- Recommend separating document(s) that exceed (or seem to exceed, if the exact size is not known) the 30MB limit into two or more documents
- For example:
 - Case A-12345-XXXXX Reconsideration Part I
 - Case A-12345-XXXXX Reconsideration Part II

2. Send Documents to ANPC via E-mail

Employer receives fewer benefits compared to uploading, including:

- **No costs** associated with e-mailing documentation;
- Immediate acknowledgement that the ANPC received the documentation; and
- **No delay** for ANPC to receive and process documentation.

3. <u>Send Documents to ANPC via Mail Service</u>

Although permissible, this method has many drawbacks to employer, which include having:

- Costs associated with sending documents to the ANPC via regular postal mail, certified mail, FedEx, UPS, etc.;
- Delay in the receipt and processing of documentation; and
- No confirmation of receipt.

Section VI

Uploading Appeal Requests Through Permanent Online System

The employer must log into the Permanent Online System and select the 'MY APPLICATIONS' tab, and then click on the "UPLOAD DOCUMENTS" sub-tab

	ETA Foreign Labor Certification Resulations certifications wage info documents contact form instructions	LOGOUT 📀
HOME	MY APPLICATIONS MY PROFILE EMPLOYER DATA USER ACCOUNTS	
CREATE CASE	SEARCH CASES WITHDRAW CASES SEARCH INCOMPLETE CASES UPLOAD DOCUMENTS	

Enter or check the case number (if displayed) that you wish to upload documents. NOTE: Documents can be uploaded up to 30 days past final decision d

	(1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 -
TA Case Number:	Search

 The employer must enter the case number for the application in the "ETA Case Number" field and click on "Search"

Enter or check the case number (if displayed) that you wish to upload documents. NOTE: Documents can be uploaded up to 30 days past final decision date.

Upload Documents	
ETA Case Number:	Search

HOME	MY APPLICATIONS	MY PROFILE	EMPLOYER DATA	USER ACCOUNTS	
CREATE CASE	SEARCH CASES WITHDR	AW CASES SEARCH IN	COMPLETE CASES UPLO	AD DOCUMENTS	
Enter or check th	ne case number (if displayed) t	hat you wish to upload	documents. NOTE: Docu	ments can be uploaded	up to 30 days past final decision date
		ETA Case Number	:	Search	

Uploading Steps

Upload Documen	ts			
* Select File:			Browse	
* Category.	Choose a category	¥	After selecting "Upload	
* Document Type:		×	Correspondence," it will need to click on the "Browse" button and locate the audit document that	
			needs to be uploaded.	Upload

Below is a list of documents that are uploaded by an analyst or an external user. External user uploads are marked with a "(E)". Please click on the File Name link to open the document.

Documents For Case Number:

Case Status: Appeal

Uploading Steps (continued)

The maximum size limit for saving any one uploaded document(s) is 30MB. Please consider separating document(s) that exceed (or seem to exceed if the exact size is not known) the 30MB limit into two or more document upload and save events to avoid lost information. Selectable document sequence options, i.e., xyz 1, xyz 2, etc., and the Note's free-text data field are provided to assist stakeholders with document upload clarity.

The Note data field provides stakeholders with a maximum of 250 characters to provide additional document upload and save clarity. When appropriate, stakeholders may provide additional information pertaining to the uploaded document to be saved, e.g., document separation sequencing, uploading notations, clarifying previous document upload and save errors involving selection of the incorrect document type, etc.

Uploaded and saved documents must pertain only to the selected case. Do not combine documents for multiple cases. If combined documents are submitted, the case reviews may be delayed and/or denied for failure to follow instructions. The Note data field may not be used to explain any application issues or document content.

Upload Documents		
* Select File:		Browse
* Category:	Appeal V	
* Document Type:	Select a Document Type to upload	
File Name:	Appeal RFI Response	
Note:	NOD Response Request for Reconsideration Request for Review	250 characters remaining
		Upload

 The system will prompt the following appeal "Document Type" options:

* Category:	Appeal V
* Document Type:	Select a Document Type to upload Appeal Miscellaneous Appeal RFI Response Appeal Withdrawal Request NOD Response Request for Reconsideration Request for Review

- The employer can:
- Upload and save several documents for the same case
- Select the "File", "Category" and "Document Type." (Optional: *"File Name"* and *"Note"* for each document to be uploaded.)

	Name	File Type		
	New G-28 for Case A-1 docx	G-28 Documentation		
	Audit Response for Case A	Audit Miscellaneous Documentation		
	Substitute for New Attorney for Case docx	Substitute Attorney/Agent Documentation		
De	elete Selected Attachments	Save Cancel		

 Left click on "Save" and then "OK" to complete the last steps in uploading the documents in CMS

 A view of the list of the documents uploaded, by document type, date uploaded, and any uploaded notes will be available, in addition to the name of the user that uploaded each document

File Name	Document Type	Date	Upload Note	User
2 for Employer and FWdocx	Audit Miscellaneous Documentation	04/26/2017	Attached is the employer's audit response for case ABC Employer and Foreign Worker Name.	uat1tester
Case American	SR RFI Response	04/26/2017	SR Response Case to DOL's SR letter dated 4/23/2017.	uat1tester
Audit Response for Case Employer and First and Last Name of Foreign Worker.docx	Audit AAIR Documentation	04/26/2017		uat1tester
HD Inquiry Case 4 for Employer and FW.docx	Help Desk Inquiry	04/26/2017	What is the status of my case?	uat1tester
HD Inquiry Case 4 for Employer and FW.docx	Change of Address Request	04/26/2017	Please see my change of address.	uat1tester
New G-28 for Case 4.docx	G-28 Documentation	04/26/2017	See my updated G-28.	uat1tester
Audit Response for Case Automatic Adocx	Audit Miscellaneous Documentation	04/26/2017		uat1tester
Substitute for New Attorney for Case	Substitute Attorney/Agent Documentation	04/26/2017	See attachment.	uat1tester

- The external user will receive an automatically generated e-mail from "U.S. Dept. of Labor Employment & Training Administration <mailto: plc.help@dol.gov>" after uploading documents in CMS (a copy of the e-mail will be simultaneously sent to the ANPC help desk) acknowledging that documentation was uploaded
- Example:

"This internal e-mail is to notify you that correspondence has been added to A-12345-XXXXX. Correspondence Type uploaded:

- Request for Reconsideration
- G-28 Documentation

User Name (UserID) User Name (UserID)"

Section VII

Resources for PERM Labor Certification Applications

Department of Labor: PERM Program How to Contact ANPC for Assistance

- PERM General Program and Processing Questions
 - Help Desk: PLC.Atlanta@dol.gov
 - Telephone: (404) 893-0101
 - Mail: U.S. Department of Labor Office of Foreign Labor Certification Atlanta National Processing Center Harris Tower
 233 Peachtree Street N.E., Suite 410 Atlanta, GA 30303
- Check the OFLC website on regular basis for PERM updates, FAQs, webinar announcements, and updated forms at <u>www.foreignlaborcert.doleta.gov</u>

Department of Labor: PERM Program Processing Times for PERM Labor Certification Applications

Go to icert.doleta.gov click on "Processing Times"

PERM Processing Times (as of 3/31/2017)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR A to Z Site Magnetic Action Z Site Magnetic Actio					lap FAQs Form	ap FAQs Forms About DOL Contact Us Esp		
J Emplo	oyment & Trair	ning Administi	ration			En	ter Search Term	Sea
ETA Home	Find Job & Career Info	Business & Industry	Workforce Professionals	Grants & Contracts	TAA Program	Foreign Labor Certification	Performance & Results	Regions & States
ETA Home > iCERT	<u>F Portal</u>							
Welcome	to the iCER	T Visa Port	al System					
Username:			New to the	iCERT System			T	
Password:	Dassword:			Portal Account 1	<u>Foday</u>	Labor	Certification	KANSA
			Forgot you	r username or	password?	Re	GISTRY	6
		.og In	Click Here				-7	~
	Ľ							
Alerts Proc	cessing Times F	orms User Gui	les Legacy Acco	unts		ICERT	CASE STATUS	S CHECK
NPWC Proces	ssing Times (as o	f 3/31/2017)				Esta 1	- t- 20	
Processing Queue			Request Date			Enter up to 30 case numbers, one per line (e.g., G-100-12345-123456)		ers, one per line 6)
H-18				January 20:	17	Case Numbers		
	H-2B			March 201	7			
PERM			January 2017					
				Submission D)ate			
	Redeterminations			H-1B - January 2017 PERM - January 2017				Check Status
			PEF	RM / H-1B- Febru	uary 2017			
Center Director Reviews			H-2B - March 2017			FIND CURRENT FAQS		
						To find	the latest Frequent	v Asked

Description Opened	Priority Dates			
Processing Queue	Month	Year		
Analyst Review	January	2017		
Audit Review	August	2016		
Reconsideration Requests to the CO	February	2017		

The Analyst Review and Audit dates posted on iCERT above reflect the month and year in which cases were filed that are now being adjudicated at the Atlanta National Processing Center. *The Reconsideration Request to the CO dates posted on iCERT above reflect the month and year in which cases that are now being reviewed at the Atlanta National Processing Center were appealed. For various reasons, we may be completing the processing of applications filed prior to the month posted on iCERT. If your application was filed more than 3 months prior to the month posted, you may contact our Helpdesk for a status on the application at <u>plc.atlanta@dol.gov</u>.

Determinations	Average Number of Days to Process PERM Applications			
Determinations	Month	Calendar Days		
Analyst Review	March 2017	78		
Audit Review	March 2017	234		

The Analyst Review and Audit Review determination processing times on iCERT above reflect the amount of time to process applications for the month. The actual processing time for each employer PERM application may vary from the average depending on the material facts and circumstances. OFLC is only reporting the average processing time for all PERM applications for the most recent month.

Department of Labor: PERM Program Helpful Resources

 Visit the OFLC website and "Subscribe" for e-mail updates <u>at www.foreignlaborcert.doleta.gov</u>

Department of Labor: PERM Program Helpful Resources

 View PERM FAQs, forms, regulations, etc., at <u>www.foreignlaborcert.doleta.gov/perm.cfm</u>

Foreign Labor Certification Helping U.S. employers fill jobs while protecting U.S. and foreign workers					
Permanent Labor Certification		^			
Helpful Links		▼ On This Page			
Frequently Asked Questions	Appendix A Professional Occupations				
Forms & Case Management System	Schedule A Occupations				
Regulations	Program Debarments				
Wage and Survey Information	Contact Us				
Disclosure Data	Additional Resources				
	PERM Webinars				