Global Immigration alert

June 2026

United States

DHS publishes Final Rule amending registration and fingerprinting requirements

Executive summary

On 29 June 2026, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) published a Final Rule amending registration and fingerprinting requirements for certain foreign nationals in the United States. The rule establishes a modernized system for how noncitizens comply with longstanding statutory registration and fingerprinting requirements under the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA). The rule also expands and clarifies acceptable evidence of registration, removes outdated provisions, and brings the regulations into alignment with current DHS operational practices.

Background and analysis

The rule finalizes interim guidance from March 2025 that introduced Form G-325R for individuals who had not previously satisfied statutory registration requirements. After reviewing public comments on this guidance, DHS made several clarifications, including:

- Lawful permanent residents (LPRs) who turn 14 while outside the US must re-register and apply to replace their green card within 30 days of returning to the US.
- US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) may issue LPRs and conditional LPRs temporary proof of registration.

Additionally, DHS is expanding the types of documents that may serve as proof of registration, including certain travel records, documentation issued during enforcement processes, and documents reflecting modern border and screening procedures. It also removes outdated forms and references that are no longer in use. As a result, a broader range of individuals may already meet registration requirements based on prior interactions with DHS, even if they have not submitted a traditional registration form.

The list of prescribed registration forms include, but are not limited to:

- G-325R
- I-94/94A/94W, Arrival-Departure Record
- I-485, Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status, or its predecessor or successor form
- I-590, Registration for Classification as Refugee or its predecessor or successor form

Further, evidence that a foreign national has satisfied the registration requirement includes, but is not limited to:

- USCIS Proof of Alien G-325R Registration, or its successor form
- I-94/94A/94W, Arrival-Departure Record
- I-551, Permanent Resident ("Green") Card
- I-766, Employment Authorization Document
- Customs and Border Protection (CBP)-approved document or electronic equivalent for the Trusted Traveler Programs (NEXUS, SENTRI, FAST, or Global Entry facilitated processing)

Fingerprinting and biometrics continue to be a central component of the updated framework. The rule explains who is exempt from biometric collection under the statute and removes outdated exemptions. Individuals who have not previously been fingerprinted may be required to complete biometrics to satisfy registration requirements.

Additional updates bring the regulations into alignment with current USCIS practices. These include removing outdated requirements such as physical photograph submission, clarifying how and when temporary evidence of status may be issued, and standardizing procedures for replacing registration documents.

DHS is also requesting comments on potential future changes, such as expanding the list of qualifying registration forms (e.g., Form I-90), revisiting how certain documents function as evidence of registration, and updating outdated waivers of biometric requirements. These proposals indicate a longer-term shift toward a more standardized, centralized registration system with consistent screening and verification protocols. Comments must be submitted to DHS on or before 28 August 2026.

What this means

While DHS emphasizes that the rule does not create new legal obligations, it significantly expands enforcement and operational clarity around long-standing statutory requirements. As a result, employers should anticipate more consistent scrutiny of underlying registration compliance in employment-based immigration matters.

Organizations should ensure that foreign national employees understand their registration obligations. Employers should view this development as part of a broader shift toward increased immigration compliance expectations and prepare accordingly.

We will continue to monitor and share future developments. For additional information, or if you wish to discuss this further, please contact your EY Law LLP professional or Mehlman Jacobs LLP professional.

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