



NO MORE COMBO CARDS?

Are You a Green Card Applicant with a Pending I-485 Adjustment of Status Application?

If so, you may be expecting to receive an employment authorization document (EAD) and advance parole (AP) combo card. However, USCIS recently began issuing the two documents separately.

What Is a Combo Card?

In 2011, USCIS announced that they would begin issuing employment and travel authorization on a single “combo” card for those green card applicants already living lawfully in the United States and filing an adjustment of status (AOS) application. By combining the documents, USCIS enabled applicants to carry a single document that was more durable and secure than the previous AP document.

What Did a Combo Card Look Like and What Should I Expect in the Mail Now?

Combo Card

Combo cards look very similar to EAD cards, but they include text at the bottom of the card that says, “Serves as I-512 Advance Parole.”



Regular EAD Card

EAD-only cards include text that states that they are “not valid for reentry to U.S.” To travel, you must have a separate AP document.



Why Did USCIS Stop Issuing Combo Cards and How Does this Affect Me?

USCIS has stopped issuing combo cards in an effort to reduce growing EAD backlogs that have created employment interruptions for applicants. Because the two documents will now be sent to you separately, you may receive your EAD card before your AP document.

It's important to understand that the EAD card alone will not permit you to travel and re-enter the United States. You must carry your separate AP document issued by USCIS to travel.

The Advance Parole Is a Separate Document That Looks Like This

