Part Eight
Acceptable Documents for Verifying Employment Authorization and Identity

The following documents have been designated as acceptable for Form I-9 to establish an employee’s employment authorization and identity. The comprehensive Lists of Acceptable Documents can be found on the next pages of this Handbook and on the last page of Form I-9. Samples of many of the acceptable documents appear on the following pages.

To establish both identity and employment authorization, a person must present to his or her employer a document or combination of documents, if applicable, from List A, which shows both identity and employment authorization; or one document from List B, which shows only identity, and one document from List C, which shows only employment authorization.

If a person is unable to present the required document(s) within three business days of the date work for pay begins, he or she must present an acceptable receipt within that time. The person then must present the actual document when the receipt period ends. The person must have indicated on or before the time employment began, by having checked an appropriate box in Section 1, that he or she is already authorized to be employed in the United States. Receipts showing that a person has applied for an initial grant of employment authorization, or for renewal of employment authorization, are not acceptable. Receipts are also not acceptable if employment is for fewer than three business days.

The following pages show the most recent versions and representative images of some of the various acceptable documents on the list. These images can assist you in your review of the document presented to you. These pages are not, however, comprehensive. In some cases, many variations of a particular document exist and new versions may be published subsequent to the publication date of this Handbook. Keep in mind that USCIS does not expect you to be a document expert. You are expected to accept documents that reasonably appear to be genuine and to relate to the person presenting them. For a list of acceptable receipts for Form I-9, see Table 1 in Part Two.

LIST A: Documents That Establish Both Identity and Employment Authorization
All documents must be unexpired.

1. U.S. Passport or Passport Card
2. Permanent Resident Card or Alien Registration Receipt Card (Form I-551)
3. Foreign passport that contains a temporary I-551 stamp or temporary I-551 printed notation on a machine-readable immigrant visa (MRIV)
4. Employment Authorization Document (Card) that contains a photograph (Form I-766)
5. In the case of a nonimmigrant alien authorized to work for a specific employer incident to status, a foreign passport with Form I-94 or Form I-94A bearing the same name as the passport and containing an endorsement of the alien’s nonimmigrant status, as long as the period of endorsement has not yet expired and the proposed employment is not in conflict with any restrictions or limitations identified on the form
6. Passport from the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) or the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) with Form I-94 or Form I-94A indicating nonimmigrant admission under the Compact of Free Association Between the United States and the FSM or RMI
### LIST B: Documents That Establish Identity

*All documents must be unexpired.*

For individuals 18 years of age or older:

1. Driver’s license or ID card issued by a state or outlying possession of the United States, provided it contains a photograph or information such as name, date of birth, gender, height, eye color, and address

2. ID card issued by federal, state, or local government agencies or entities, provided it contains a photograph or information such as name, date of birth, gender, height, eye color, and address

3. School ID card with a photograph

4. Voter’s registration card

5. U.S. military card or draft record

6. Military dependent’s ID card

7. U.S. Coast Guard Merchant Mariner Card

8. Native American tribal document

9. Driver’s license issued by a Canadian government authority

For persons under age 18 who are unable to present a document listed above:

10. School record or report card

11. Clinic, doctor, or hospital record

12. Day-care or nursery school record

### LIST C: Documents That Establish Employment Authorization

*All documents must be unexpired.*

1. A Social Security Account Number card unless the card includes one of the following restrictions:
   
   (1) NOT VALID FOR EMPLOYMENT
   
   (2) VALID FOR WORK ONLY WITH INS AUTHORIZATION
   
   (3) VALID FOR WORK ONLY WITH DHS AUTHORIZATION
   
   **NOTE:** A copy (such as a metal or plastic reproduction) is not acceptable.

2. Certification of Birth Abroad issued by the U.S. Department of State (Form FS-545)

3. Certification of Report of Birth issued by the U.S. Department of State (Form DS-1350)

4. Original or certified copy of a birth certificate issued by a state, county, municipal authority, or outlying possession of the United States bearing an official seal

5. Native American tribal document

6. U.S. Citizen Identification Card (Form I-197)

7. Identification Card for Use of Resident Citizen in the United States (Form I-179)

8. Employment authorization document issued by DHS
List A—Documents That Establish Both Identity and Employment Authorization

U.S. Passport

The U.S. Department of State issues the U.S. passport to U.S. citizens and noncitizen nationals. There are a small number of versions still in circulation that may differ from the main versions shown here.

The illustrations in this Handbook do not necessarily reflect the actual size of the documents.
U.S. Passport Card

The U.S. Department of State began producing the passport card in July 2008. The passport card is a wallet-size card that can only be used for land and sea travel between the United States and Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Bermuda.

Permanent Resident Card (Form I-551)

On May 11, 2010, USCIS began issuing the newly redesigned Permanent Resident Card, also known as the Green Card, which is now green in keeping with its long-standing nickname. The card is personalized with the bearer’s photo, name, USCIS number, alien registration number, date of birth, and laser-engraved fingerprint, as well as the card expiration date. Note that on the new card, shown below, the lawful permanent resident’s alien registration number, commonly known as the A number, is found under the USCIS # heading. The A number is also located on the back of the card.
This most recent older version of the Permanent Resident Card shows the DHS seal and contains a detailed hologram on the front of the card. Each card is personalized with an etching showing the bearer’s photo, name, fingerprint, date of birth, alien registration number, card expiration date, and card number.

Also in circulation are older Resident Alien cards, issued by the U.S. Department of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization Service, which do not have expiration dates and are valid indefinitely. These cards are peach in color and contain the bearer’s fingerprint and photograph.

Older version Permanent Resident Card (Form I-551) front and back

**Foreign Passport with I-551 Stamp or MRIV**

USCIS uses either an I-551 stamp or a temporary I-551 printed notation on a machine-readable immigrant visa (MRIV) to denote temporary evidence of lawful permanent residence. Sometimes, if no foreign passport is available, USCIS will place the I-551 stamp on a Form I-94 and affix a photograph of the bearer to the form. This document is considered a receipt.

Reverify the employee in Section 3 of Form I-9 when the stamp in the passport expires, or one year after the issuance date if the stamp does not include an expiration date. For temporary I-551 receipts, at the end of the receipt validity period, the individual must present the Permanent Resident Card (Form I-551) for Section 2 of Form I-9.

The MRIV demonstrates permanent resident status for one year from the date of admission found in the foreign passport that contains the MRIV.

Unexpired Foreign Passport with I-551 Stamp

I-551 Stamp
The temporary Form I-551 MRIV is evidence of permanent resident status for one year from the date of admission.

**Temporary I-551 printed notation on a machine-readable immigrant visa (MRIV)**

**Employment Authorization Document (Form I-766)**

USCIS issues the Employment Authorization Document (Form I-766) to individuals granted temporary employment authorization in the United States. The card contains the bearer’s photograph, fingerprint, card number, Alien number, birth date, and signature, along with a holographic film and the DHS seal. The expiration date is located at the bottom of the card. Cards may contain one of the following notations above the expiration date: “Not Valid for Reentry to U.S.”, “Valid for Reentry to U.S.” or “Serves as I-512 Advance Parole.”

**Employment Authorization Document (Form I-766) with notation “NOT VALID FOR REENTRY TO U.S.”**

**Employment Authorization Document (Form I-766) with notation “VALID FOR REENTRY TO U.S.”**

**Previous back of EAD card**

**Newly redesigned back of EAD card**
Form I-20 Accompanied by Form I-94 or Form I-94A

Form I-94 or Form I-94A for F-1 nonimmigrant students must be accompanied by a Form I-20, Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Students, endorsed with employment authorization by the designated school official for off-campus employment or curricular practical training. USCIS will issue an Employment Authorization Document (Form I-766) to all students (F-1 and M-1) authorized for a post-completion OPT period.

(See Form I-94 on next page.)

Form DS-2019 Accompanied by Form I-94 or Form I-94A

Nonimmigrant exchange visitors (J-1) must have a Form I-94 or Form I-94A accompanied by an unexpired Form DS-2019, Certificate of Eligibility for Exchange Visitor (J-1) Status, issued by the U.S. Department of State, that specifies the sponsor. J-1 exchange visitors working outside the program indicated on the Form DS-2019 also need a letter from their responsible officer.

(See Form I-94 on next page.)
**Form I-94 or Form I-94A Arrival/Departure Record**

CBP and sometimes USCIS issue arrival-departure records to nonimmigrants. This document indicates the bearer’s immigration status, the date that the status was granted, and when the status expires. The immigration status notation within the stamp on the card varies according to the status granted, e.g., L-1, F-1, J-1. The Form I-94 has a handwritten date and status, and the Form I-94A has a computer-generated date and status. Both may be presented with documents that Form I-9 specifies are valid only when Form I-94 or Form I-94A also is presented, such as the foreign passport, Form DS-2019, or Form I-20.

Form I-9 provides space for you to record the document number and expiration date for both the passport and Form I-94 or Form I-94A.

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**Passports of the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands**

In 2003, Compacts of Free Association (CFA) between the United States and the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) were amended to allow citizens of these countries to work in the United States without obtaining an Employment Authorization Document (Form I-766).

For Form I-9 purposes, citizens of these countries may present FSM or RMI passports accompanied by a Form I-94 or Form I-94A indicating nonimmigrant admission under the CFA, which are acceptable documents under List A. The exact notation on Form I-94 or Form I-94A may vary and is subject to change. The notation on Form I-94 or Form I-94A typically states “CFA/FSM” for an FSM citizen and “CFA/MIS” for an RMI citizen.

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**Passports from the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands**
List B—Documents That Establish Identity Only

**State-issued Driver’s License**

A driver’s license can be issued by any state or territory of the United States (including the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) or by a Canadian government authority, and is acceptable if it contains a photograph or other identifying information such as name, date of birth, gender, height, eye color, and address.

Some states may place notations on their drivers’ licenses that state the card does not confirm employment authorization. For Form I-9 purposes, these drivers’ licenses, along with every other state’s, establish the identity of an employee. When presenting any driver’s license, the employee must also present a List C document that establishes employment authorization.

**State-issued ID Card**

An ID card can be issued by any state (including the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) or by a local government, and is acceptable if it contains a photograph or other identifying information such as name, date of birth, gender, height, eye color, and address.

Some states may place notations on their ID cards that state the card does not confirm employment authorization. For Form I-9 purposes, these cards, along with every other state’s, establish the identity of an employee. When presenting any state-issued ID card, the employee must also present a List C document that establishes employment authorization.
List C — Documents That Establish Employment Authorization Only

The following illustrations in this Handbook do not necessarily reflect the actual size of the documents.

U.S. Social Security Account Number Card

The U.S. Social Security account number card is issued by the Social Security Administration (older versions were issued by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services), and can be presented as a List C document unless the card specifies that it does not authorize employment in the United States. Metal or plastic reproductions are not acceptable.

U.S. Social Security Card

Certifications of Birth Issued by the U.S. Department of State

These documents may vary in color and paper used. All will include a raised seal of the office that issued the document, and may contain a watermark and raised printing.

Certification of Birth Abroad Issued by the U.S. Department of State (FS-545)
Certification of Report of Birth Issued by the U.S. Department of State (DS-1350)

**Birth Certificate**

Only an original or certified copy of a birth certificate issued by a state, county, municipal authority, or outlying possession of the United States that bears an official seal is acceptable. Versions will vary by state and year of birth.

**U.S. Citizen Identification Card (Form I-197)**

Form I-197 was issued by the former Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) to naturalized U.S. citizens. Although this card is no longer issued, it is valid indefinitely.

**Identification Card for Use of Resident Citizen in the United States (Form I-179)**

Form I-179 was issued by INS to U.S. citizens who are residents of the United States. Although this card is no longer issued, it is valid indefinitely.
REMEMBER:

1. Hiring employees without complying with the employment eligibility verification requirements is a violation of the employer sanctions laws.

2. This law requires employees hired after November 6, 1986, to present documentation that establishes identity and employment authorization. Employers must record this information on Forms I-9.

3. Employers may not discriminate against employees on the basis of national origin or citizenship status.