

*EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
ATHENS, GREECE
Department of Homeland Security*

PUBLIC INFORMATION NOTICE

EXPIRED ALIEN REGISTRATION CARDS (I-551)

Most Alien Registration Cards, commonly known as a Green Cards, (form I-551), currently in circulation, have an expiration date and are required to be renewed every ten years. This enables the US Immigration Service to improve the quality of the card with additional features and make it less susceptible to fraud.

According to the DHS/Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Service (BCIS) lawfully admitted permanent resident aliens who have an expired ten-year Card (form I-551) and are presently outside the U.S. can STILL enter the U.S. without the issuance of a transportation letter. Please be advised that lawful permanent residents with expiring/expired Green Card do not lose their legal status in the United States. Their lawful permanent resident status does not expire or change. However, they should renew their expiring Green Card in order to maintain acceptable evidence of their permanent resident status and avoid possible difficulties in obtaining employment, benefits, and re-entry into the United States after traveling abroad.

Transportation Companies are authorized to board any bona fide lawful Permanent Resident (LPR) who is in possession of an expired Alien Registration Card with ten-year expiration date. Airlines may permit boarding without any penalty to the LPR.

Carriers must be informed that this policy does not affect Conditional Permanent Resident cardholders with a two-year expiration date.

Applications (I-90) for new Alien registration Card must be made with the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration (BCIS) in the U.S. as soon as possible. Form I-90 (Application to replace Alien Registration Card) can be obtained from the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration (BCIS) website: www.immigration.gov