

Key to Employment Authorization Documents

The chart below contains the most common entries on the front of the EAD card for "category" or "provision of law" and indicates the basis on which the person was granted work authorization. The codes correspond to the work authorization provisions of 8 C.F.R. § 274.12. The following list is not exhaustive. For this reason and because new categories are established from time to time, reference to the regulation itself is advisable to determine the meaning of codes not on the following list. The "(a)" category are non-citizens whose authority to work is inherent in their status; the "(b)" category are non-citizens authorized to work for a particular employer and the "(c)" category are those non-citizens who must apply for work authorization. (Updated 3/6/2008 by Barbara Weiner, the Empire Justice Center, New York: bweiner@empirejustice.org.)

CODE	MEANING
(a)(3)	Refugee
(a)(4)	Paroled as refugee
(a)(5)	Granted asylum
(a)(6)	Fiancé(e) of U.S. citizen or dependent of fiancé(e)
(a)(8)	Citizen of Federated States of Micronesia or Marshall Islands
(a)(9)	Spouse of USC admitted with K3 visa (and K-4 dependent)
(a)(10)	Granted withholding of removal
(a)(11)	Granted Extended Voluntary or Deferred Enforced Departure
(a)(12)	Granted TPS (temporary protected status)
(a)(13)	Granted voluntary departure under Family Unity (IMM Act 1990)
(a)(14)	Granted Family Unity under LIFE Act
(a)(15)	Spouse/child of LPR granted V non-immigrant status
(a)(16)	Person admitted as victim of trafficking (T status)
(a)(19)	Victim of crime admitted with U visa
(a)(20)	Derivative relatives of U visa holder (U2-U5 status)
(b)(6)	Foreign students in on-campus employment
(b)(9)	Temporary worker or trainee (H-1, H-2A, H-2B or H-3 status)
(b)(11)	Exchange visitor (J-1 status)
(b)(16)	Religious worker (R status)
(c)(3)(i)-(iii)	Foreign Student (F-1) permitted to work under certain conditions
(c)(5)	Non-citizen spouse or minor child of exchange visitor (J-2 status)
(c)(6)	Foreign student seeking employment for practical training (M-1 status)
(c)(8)	Applicant for asylum (150 days after filing of completed application)
(c)(9)	Applicant for adjustment to permanent status
(c)(10)	Applicant for suspension of deportation or cancellation of removal
(c)(11)	Non-citizen paroled into U.S. for emergent or public interest reason
(c)(14)	Non-citizen granted deferred action
(c)(16)	Registry applicant (resided in U.S. since before 1/1/1972)
(c)(17)(i)-(iii)	Certain domestic workers and airline employees (B-1 status)
(c)(18)	Person under Order of Supervision
(c)(19)	Applicant for Temporary Protected Status
(c)(24)	Applicant for legalization under the LIFE Act Legalization Program
(c)(25)	Immediate family members of T visa holder (T-2 through T-4 visa)
(c)(31)	VAWA self-petitioners