



**U.S. Customs and  
Border Protection**

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PUBLIC INFORMATION NOTICE.

**EXPIRED ALIEN REGISTRATION CARDS (I-551)**

Most Alien Registration Cards, commonly known as 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 U.S. Department of Homeland Security 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 an 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.

The Transportation Companies are authorized to permit boarding of any bona fide Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR) in possession of an expired Alien Registration Card with a ten year expiration date if the expiration date on the card is the only reason that the LPR would otherwise not be boarded. Airlines are to 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. The Conditional Permanent Resident in possession of an expired Alien Registration Card must continue to have evidence that the Alien Registration Card expiration date has been extended.**

Applications (I-90) for new Alien Registration Card must be made with the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) in the U.S. as soon as possible. Form I-90 (Application to replace Alien Registration Card) can be retrieved from the USCIS website:

**WWW.USCIS.GOV**

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