

1. What is Temporary Protected Status (TPS)?

TPS is a temporary immigration status granted to eligible individuals from certain countries as designated by the U.S. government, which are facing ongoing armed conflict, environmental disasters, or other extraordinary conditions. TPS allows these individuals to live and work in the United States for a specified period of time.

2. Who is eligible for TPS?

Eligibility for TPS depends on the specific designation made by the U.S. government for a particular country and the conditions prevailing in that country. As of today, nationals of Burma (Myanmar), El Salvador, Ethiopia, Haiti, Honduras, Lebanon, Nicaragua, Nepal, Somalia, South Sudan, Syria, Ukraine, Venezuela, and Yemen are eligible to apply for TPS, provided they meet certain country-specific requirements, such as the applicant's continuous residence in the U.S., and physical presence during the designated registration period.

3. Is TPS a pathway to permanent residency or citizenship?

While individuals granted TPS are allowed to live and work in the United States for a specified period, TPS itself does not lead to permanent residency or citizenship on its own. However, individuals with TPS status may be eligible for other forms of relief or pathways to permanent residency, such as a family-based or employment-based petition.

4. How long does TPS status last?

TPS status is granted for a specific period as designated by the U.S. government, and extensions may be announced. The duration of TPS for each country is subject to review and may be extended, terminated, or modified by the U.S. government based on changing conditions in the designated country. TPS beneficiaries must reapply during designated re-registration periods to maintain their status.

5. Can individuals with pending immigration cases apply for TPS?

Yes, individuals with pending cases may be eligible for TPS, but they need to separately apply and meet TPS eligibility criteria.

6. How can I apply for TPS?

Individuals who meet the eligibility requirements may apply for TPS by submitting an application to USCIS within the designated registration periods set by the U.S. government. In addition to submitting supporting documentation, individuals can also apply for employment authorization.

7. Is there a fee to apply for TPS?

Yes, there is a fee to apply for TPS and employment authorization. Fees may vary depending on whether you are filing an initial application or re-registering for TPS, your age and whether you are applying for employment authorization. Currently, for an initial application, the filing fee is \$510, whereas a re-registration does not have a filing fee, plus an \$30 biometrics fee for applicants 14 and older, in addition to the \$1080 Employment Authorization Document fee.

8. Can I travel outside the U.S. with TPS?

TPS alone will not permit you to travel outside the U.S. and re-enter. Individuals with TPS will need to apply for an advance parole. Advance parole is typically granted for humanitarian, employment, or educational purposes. Traveling outside the U.S. without advance parole will result in the abandonment of your TPS status and you may be unable to re-enter the U.S.

9. Can individuals with criminal convictions apply for TPS?

An individual is ineligible for TPS if they have been convicted of a felony or two or more misdemeanors committed in the United States. If you were ever arrested or convicted for any criminal offense, you must submit certified copies of all arrest reports, court dispositions, sentencing documents, and any supporting documents. These charges have to be disclosed to USCIS in the filing.

10. What happens if a country's TPS designation is terminated?

If the U.S. government terminates the designation of a TPS for a particular country, then TPS beneficiaries return to the immigration status that they held prior to receiving TPS, unless that status has expired, or they obtain an alternate immigration status. TPS beneficiaries who do not have another lawful immigration status, will technically be subject to removal from the U.S. if they remain in the U.S., however they will not be sought after by the government.