

## USCIS Considers Overseas Biometrics

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We have just received word that United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is developing a proposed policy to allow EB-5 investors and others to attend biometrics appointments in China or elsewhere outside the United States. Currently, USCIS requires applicants to travel to the United States to attend biometrics appointments related to re-entry permits and I-90 applications to renew or replace a green card. The current policy often results in hardships to EB-5 investors and others in China, who must purchase plane tickets to the U.S. on short notice.

Under the proposed policy, applicants will be able to request a biometrics appointment overseas. Although the specific guidelines are still under review, preliminary information indicates that applicants could qualify for an overseas appointment based on hardship or an emergency situation. This development would be much more convenient for overseas investors seeking to apply for a travel document or replacement green card, as it would not require a trip to the United States.

Again, this is just a proposal, so we need to wait for a final determination from the U.S. government before knowing what the final rule will be and how it will work. In the meantime, please stay tuned for more updates from Peng & Weber, PLLC as USCIS considers this proposed policy and others of importance to EB-5 investors. (Information for this news report was received from the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA), the world's largest organization of U.S. immigration lawyers.)

