



*Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Health and Human Services  
Department of Transitional Assistance*

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**Operations Memo 2013-44  
August 30, 2013**

**To:** Department of Transitional Assistance Staff

**From:**  Lydia Conley, Deputy Assistant Commissioner for Policy, Program and External Relations

**Re:** TAFDC, EAEDC and SNAP - Temporary Protective Status (TPS) Extension for El Salvador

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**Introduction**

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) may designate a foreign country for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) because conditions in that country temporarily prevent its nationals from returning safely.

TPS is a temporary immigration status, authorized under Section 244 of the Immigration and Naturalization Act (INA) granted by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). It allows nationals of a designated country to remain in the U.S., and work for a limited time period.

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**Overview**

El Salvador was initially designated for TPS on March 9, 2001, following a series of earthquakes in January and February 2001. Several TPS extensions have been granted since that time because the environmental disaster conditions caused by the earthquakes continue to exist. The current TPS period will expire September 9, 2013.

On May 30, 2013, DHS extended TPS designation for El Salvador for 18 months, beginning September 10, 2013 through March 9, 2015.

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**Purpose of Memo**

This Operations Memo:

- advises staff about the extension of TPS for El Salvador;
  - reminds TAO staff about eligibility for foreign nationals with TPS; and
  - reminds TAO staff about how to enter INA designation information in BEACON for El Salvador nationals with TPS and of resource materials available for noncitizens.
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**El Salvador TPS Extension**

Effective September 10, 2013, DHS will allow El Salvador nationals with current TPS to remain in the U.S. through March 9, 2015, provided they re-registered with USCIS. The re-registration period began on May 30, 2013 and ended July 29, 2013. USCIS sent individuals with current TPS notification about the extension and requirement to re-register.

**Note:** The TPS extension re-registration period for El Salvador is closed. However, nationals of El Salvador who have not previously applied for TPS may be eligible to apply under a late initial registration provision during the TPS extension period. Individuals who are interested in this status should be provided the What Noncitizens Need To Know and the Noncitizens Resource brochures. Community agencies may be able to refer clients to immigration specialists.

During a TPS designation period, individuals who are granted TPS may apply for and receive an Employment Authorization Document (EAD). For the El Salvador TPS extension re-registrants, EADs with an expiration date of September 9, 2013, have been automatically extended for six months, through March 9, 2014.

However, before the March 9, 2014 expiration date, USCIS will issue new EADs with an expiration date of March 9, 2015 to eligible TPS re-registrants who apply for a new one.

Individuals who meet all eligibility requirements and are approved for the extended TPS as a result of re-registration will have documentation from USCIS verifying their temporary status and its duration. These individuals are permitted to remain in the U.S. through March 9, 2015.

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**Eligibility**

El Salvador nationals granted TPS are Permanently Residing Under Color of Law (PRUCOL) for purposes of EAEDC eligibility, and accordingly, are eligible for EAEDC benefits provided they meet all other EAEDC nonfinancial and financial requirements.

To coincide with this memo, a BEACON query was run to determine the number of active EAEDC clients from El Salvador, who may be affected by the TPS extension. No clients were identified.

**Reminder:** Case managers are reminded of the importance of accurately recording in BEACON, all noncitizen clients' immigration status. This status has implications for all Department programs and can affect among other things, benefit calculations and eligibility for support services.

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**Case Manager  
Responsibility**

A list of EAEDC clients who are El Salvador nationals with current TPS will be sent electronically to the directors and assistant directors of the affected TAOs to be distributed to the appropriate case manager.

The case manager must schedule an appointment with the client to determine the client's TPS re-registration status or whether he/she now has another qualified status, such as a permanent residence "green card" under another provision of INA law.

**Important:** Be sure to update the INS Designation page in the Assessed Person Nonfinancials workflow for any reported change in status.

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**BEACON  
Instructions**

It is important that clients with TPS are identified in BEACON as having TPS to substantiate PRUCOL designation.

When completing the INS Designation page for clients with TPS, the case manager must:

- on the Detail tab, select **PRUCOL** in the INS designation drop-down box;
- select **TPS** in the Section reference field; and

**Important:** Do not select the Section 244 or Section 244(a)(3) designations that appear in the drop-down box.

- enter all information provided by USCIS that is required to complete the INS Designation page.

The case manager must annotate the BEACON Narrative tab with: **EI Salvador national with Temporary Protected Status.**

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**Questions**

If you have any questions, please have your Hotline designee call the Policy Hotline.

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