

NEWS UPDATE

April 7, 2011

Subject: Possible U.S. Government Shutdown

U.S. Congressional leaders are speculating that a “shutdown” of the U.S. government may be imminent if an agreement on the U.S. budget is not reached by 11:59 pm on Friday, April 8, 2011. In the event that Congress does not pass a budget in time, immigration services may be affected as follows:

- **Department of Homeland Security:** Working with Limited Services. Over 80% of the DHS workforce has been deemed to be "essential" personnel for agencies such as TSA, Customs and Border Protection, Secret Service, Coast Guard, FEMA and Immigration Customs Enforcement.
 - US. Citizenship & Immigration Service: Unofficially, USCIS should remain open because it is funded by filing fees. The four service centers should remain operational.
 - Customs and Border Protection: Border protection is considered an essential function and will continue to be funded, though processing delays are possible.
- **Department of State** (incl. U.S. Consulates): Working, but limited. The Department refused to comment on all foreign services, but visa processing could be delayed or halted. Consular functions, such as helping Americans in distress abroad, are likely to continue. Other functions of the State Department and its embassies that are deemed essential for national security reasons will continue.
- **Department of Labor:** The Department has not confirmed whether Labor Condition Applications and PERM filings will continue to be processed electronically. However, hard copies of PERM filings can still be mailed in the event of time sensitivity issues.
- **Passport Processing:** Not working. Passport processing employees will be sent home during the shutdown, causing delays in the 200,000 passport applications currently pending.

Should you or one of your company’s employees intend to travel internationally to apply for a U.S. visa stamp or other U.S. immigration benefit, please immediately contact us. Postponing international travel may be the best option, where possible. Please also let us know if you have questions or concerns.

If you have any questions, email us at contactRS@rudnickspector.com.

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