

## USCIS Response to Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19)



U.S. Citizenship  
and Immigration  
Services

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# USCIS Expands Premium Processing Service to E-3 Petitioners

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Starting Feb. 24, 2021, petitioners filing [Form I-129, Petition for a Nonimmigrant Worker](#), requesting a change or extension of status to E-3 classification will have the option to request premium processing service for their petition. The [E-3 classification](#) applies only to nationals of Australia who are coming to the United States solely to perform services in a specialty occupation.

An Australian national who is outside the United States may apply for an E-3 nonimmigrant visa directly through the Department of State or, in the case of an individual already in the U.S., by filing Form I-129 with USCIS. To qualify for the E-3 classification, you must demonstrate, among other things, that you:

- Are a national of Australia;
- Have a legitimate offer of employment in the United States;
- Possess the necessary academic or other qualifying credentials; and
- Will fill a position that qualifies as a specialty occupation.

The [USCIS premium processing service](#) allows petitioners to pay an additional filing fee to expedite the adjudication of certain forms, generally within 15 days.

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