



June 4, 2025

PA-2025-05

Policy Alert

SUBJECT: Professionals under the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA)

Purpose

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is issuing policy guidance in the [USCIS Policy Manual](#) regarding certain eligibility requirements, including filing, petitions for classification, and change of status relating to the “TN” nonimmigrant visa classification under the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), formerly known as the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).¹

Background

In 1994, NAFTA created certain economic and trade relationships for the United States, Canada, and Mexico. The associated TN nonimmigrant classification allows citizens of Canada and Mexico (as NAFTA professionals) to work in the United States in prearranged, professional-level business activities for U.S. or foreign employers. In 2020, NAFTA was replaced by the USMCA, which incorporates the content of the NAFTA agreement for immigration purposes.

This guidance, contained in Volume 2 of the Policy Manual, is effective immediately and applies to petitions and applications filed on or after the publication date. This policy update supersedes the guidance relating to TN nonimmigrants found in Chapter 30 of the Adjudicator’s Field Manual (AFM), related AFM appendices, and related policy memoranda. The guidance contained in the Policy Manual is controlling and supersedes any related prior guidance.

Policy Highlights

- Explains USCIS’ role in adjudicating petitions for TN nonimmigrant status, and applications to extend or change nonimmigrant status to TN nonimmigrant.
- Clarifies eligibility requirements, including employment, degree, and licensure requirements.
- Provides guidance for specific occupations, such as Engineer and Economist.

¹ See [INA 214\(c\)](#). See [8 CFR 214.6](#). See the North American Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act, [Pub. L. 103-182](#) (December 8, 1993). See the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement Implementation Act, [Pub. L. 116-113](#) (January 29, 2020).

- Provides general guidance for the Scientific Technician/Technologist (ST/T) occupation and clarifies that individuals providing patient care do not qualify for the TN ST/T.
- Provides guidance relating to the spouse and unmarried minor children who are accompanying or following to join a TN nonimmigrant.

Summary of Changes

Affected Section: Volume 2, Nonimmigrants

- Adds new Part P (USMCA Professionals (TN))

USCIS may also make other minor technical, stylistic, and conforming changes consistent with this update.

Citation

Volume 2: Nonimmigrants, Part P, USMCA Professionals (TN) [[2 USCIS-PM P](#)] (Chapters 1-6).