The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has announced that beginning October 1, 2017, interviews will be required for adjustment of status applicants in employment-based green card cases. This new practice is part of President Donald Trump’s plan to apply “extreme vetting” to immigrants and visitors to the U.S. This is a significant change from USCIS policy over the last 10 years, where USCIS had the discretion to waive interviews for individuals who filed their I-485 application based on an I-140 petition filed for them in an employment category and generally did so.

Apparently, these interview waivers will no longer be permitted. This new policy is expected to slow the process for completion of the employment-based immigration processes as local USCIS offices deal with substantially larger numbers of I-485 interviews on top of already surging numbers of N-400 interviews.

While this new policy will most certainly delay the final adjustment of status to legal permanent residence, it does not substantively change the process. Applicants will have to appear in a USCIS District Office having jurisdiction over their case. According to the USCIS, “[c]onducting in-person interviews will provide USCIS officers with the opportunity to verify the information provided in an individual’s application, to discover new information that may be relevant to the adjudication process, and to determine the credibility of the individual seeking permanent residence in the United States.”