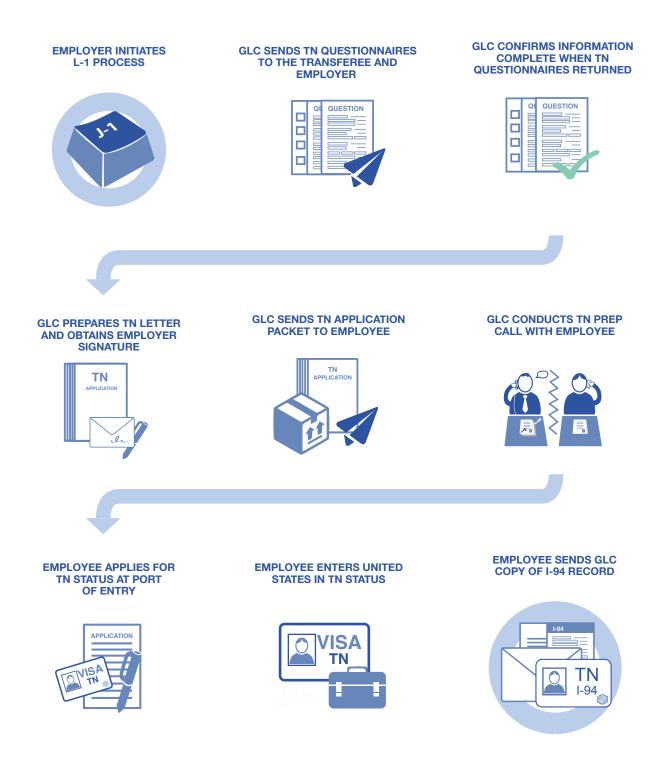


# **Professional Trade USCMA (TN)**



Goeschl

LAW CORPORATION



## Professional Trade USCMA (TN)

GOESCHL

LAW CORPORATION



#### Overview

The United States, Canada and Mexico signed the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) in 1994 to promote and support trade between those countries. In addition to eliminating tariffs and other trade barriers, NAFTA facilitates border crossing by businesspeople who are citizens of those countries. The trade agreement is now known as United States—Mexico—Canada Agreement (USMCA).

The following guidelines provide general information on TN status application by Canadian citizens. Citizens of Canada do not require a visa to work in TN status in the United States, but will need to apply for TN status at a Class A port-of-entry (e.g. a U.S. airport handling international traffic, at a U.S. designated pre-clearance/pre-flight station, or U.S. border crossing). We strongly recommend that applications be made at one of the "optimized" locations listed at https://www.cbp.gov/travel/canadian-and-m exican-citizens/traveling-tn-or-l1-visa-canada.

Please read through these guidelines in their entirety. These guidelines also apply to your spouse and children under the age of 21 who will accompany you to the United States in TD dependent status. Although dependents (spouse and children) need not be Canadian citizens to qualify for TD status, non-Canadians must apply for TD visas at a consular office.

#### **Professional Trade USMCA (TN)**

USMCA/NAFTA "TN" status is reserved for citizens of Canada and Mexico seeking to enter the United States to perform services in one of the professions listed in Appendix 1603.D.1 of NAFTA, which have also been codified in the Federal Code of Regulations at 8 C.F.R. §214.6.

The TN covers certain narrowly defined professions as defined in the USMCA, which includes; actuaries, accountants, graphic designers, lawyers, computer systems analysts, and engineers. The TN does not cover marketing professionals, regular managers, executives, and many other professions.

#### Timeline



After you complete your online questionnaire and upload your required documents, our firm will prepare your TN documents. This will include a letter of support that presents information about the U.S. employer and the job being offered to you. Typically, the application package will be shipped to approximately two weeks before your scheduled U.S. entry. Note that individuals applying for TN status are only permitted to enter the U.S. up to 10 days prior to the scheduled work start date, but may not engage in employment during this period.

We will also schedule a telephone consultation with an attorney when we ship the application package to you. The attorney will prepare you for the interview with the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officer by explaining the interview process and the legal requirements, and answer any questions you may have.



## **Professional Trade USCMA (TN)**

### **Required Documentation for TN Port of Entry Application**

When applying for TN status, you will need to present the following items:

Your original passport with at least six months of validity (for all family members);

Goeschl

LAW CORPORATION

- Your original post-secondary academic credentials (diploma and sealed transcripts);
- Letter of support signed by the company and information about the company (Goeschl Law Corporation will prepare this letter on behalf of the company and send to you);
- Marriage certificate (if you will be accompanied by your spouse);
- Birth certificate of accompanying children (if applicable), and;
- Evidence of ties to home country, such as a driver's license, club memberships, real estate holdings, and statements from your Canadian bank and retirement/investment accounts.

#### **TN Interview**



Interviews with CBP officers are usually short, but you may be required to wait some time before you meet with the officer who will conduct the visa interview. We recommend that you allow yourself at least 2-3 hours for the process. You will likely be asked about your educational and employment background, and your job duties in the United States. Please ensure that your answers to these questions are consistent with the information provided in the company letter of support. If the information on the letter is incorrect, please notify your company Immigration Coordinator or our office right away. The CBP officer may also ask you to show ties to your home country, or confirm that you will return to your home country after working in the United States. If you have been arrested, or have had previous immigration violations in the United States, please contact Goeschl Law Corporation as soon as possible before the interview, as this could affect your eligibility for TN status.

At the conclusion of the interview, the CBP officer will either notify you that the application has been approved or denied. If approved, you should receive your passport back with a date-stamped entry indicating your TN period of admission. If further evidence is required, or in the unlikely event that application is denied, please notify our office immediately following the interview.

#### Post Admission Procedures



After you arrive in the U.S, you should download a copy of your Form I-94 (Arrival Departure Record) from this website: https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94/#/home. Note that your I-94 record will only be generated once you have arrived in the United States. You should download your I-94 after every entry into the US and send our law firm a copy.

It is your duty to update the USCIS with any change of address within 10 days on Form AR-11 (Change of Address). You can do this by mail or online at: https://egov.uscis.go v/coa/displayCOAForm.do.

You can apply in person for your Social Security Number after you arrive in the U.S. You must visit the Social Security Administration with a completed Form SS-5: https://ww w.ssa.gov/forms/ss-5.pdf, your unexpired passport and your I-94 (Arrival/Departure Record). You can visit this website for more information: https://www.ssa.gov/ssnumber/.

