

YOUR WORKING CHECKLIST

Form I-539: extension, change of status and form boundaries

Is I-539 the form for every nonimmigrant extension or change?

No. USCIS uses I-539 for certain nonimmigrant requests, while some employment-related extension or change requests use an employer petition instead. Identify the present classification, the request being considered and the responsible process before assuming that a familiar form number applies.

Check the boxes on screen or by hand. Use the notes area for records to find and questions to ask.

Your preparation checklist

- ☐ Identify the classification shown on the relevant agency record.
- ☐ Describe whether the question is extension, change or reinstatement.
- ☐ Separate principal and dependent records.
- ☐ Check whether an employer petition is a separate process.
- ☐ Read current I-539 alerts and instructions.
- ☐ List individual status and timing questions for qualified review.

Notes and questions to follow up

Source links and current instructions

Sources checked October 25, 2026. Follow current instructions at the linked institution.

USCIS: I-539: Extend/Change Nonimmigrant Status

<https://www.uscis.gov/i-539>

USCIS: Policy Manual: evidence

<https://www.uscis.gov/policy-manual/volume-1-part-e-chapter-6>

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<https://immigrantinsider.com/forms/i-539/>

General information

This free organizer is not a government form and does not submit an application, establish eligibility, preserve a deadline or replace individual legal advice. Government filing fees and professional services are separate.