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USCIS to Increase Scrutiny of Employment Based Visa Extension Petitions

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U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced that officers are directed to apply the same level of scrutiny to both initial petitions and extension requests. This is required even if the petitioner, beneficiary, and facts are the same from the previously approved petition, and the burden of proof is on the petitioner. Given recent stricter scrutiny in adjudications, the USCIS announcement creates more uncertainty in employment-based petition processing.

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