



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

Homeland Security Investigations
Forensic Document Laboratory

ALERT

NEW CERTIFICATE OF NATURALIZATION (FORM N-550 REV. 08/10)

ALERT NO. 2011A-04

OCTOBER 21, 2010

Effective October 25, 2010, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) will begin issuing a redesigned security-enhanced Certificate of Naturalization, Form N-550.

On the effective date, USCIS will no longer issue the old Form N-550 with the revision date of 04/04 with the exception of two special oath ceremonies to take place in Los Angeles on October 27, 2010 and in San Francisco on October 28, 2010. The older form will be taken out of circulation and destroyed according to USCIS procedures.

The new Form N-550 will be issued to applicants granted U.S. citizenship during their naturalization oath ceremony. Some applicants will receive a certificate that contains their *color photograph* printed directly on to the certificate; while others will receive a certificate that contains their color photograph attached with glue. The Director's signature may either be digitally printed directly on to the certificate or pressed on to the certificate with a rubber stamp. Both types of certificate shall be considered valid until USCIS provides a future date when the attached photographs will no longer be used on U.S. Naturalization Certificates.

All USCIS Field Offices will print the bearer's personalization information on the enhanced Naturalization Certificate with an ink jet printer. Beginning on October 25, 2010, using a phased deployment schedule, three (3) USCIS Field Offices: Atlanta, Denver and Baltimore will have the capability to print the applicant's photograph and the USCIS Director's signature directly on to the new U.S. Certificate of Naturalization with the ink jet printer. All other USCIS Field Offices will attach the bearer's photograph and may stamp the Director's signature with a rubber stamp on to the new U.S. Certificates of Naturalization. As an additional security measure, the DHS USCIS dry seal will be embossed over the left portion of the photograph area on all issued certificates.



FORM N-550 (REV. 08 / 10)



Attached Photograph



Viewed with Oblique (side) Light



Integrated Photograph



Viewed with Oblique (side) Light



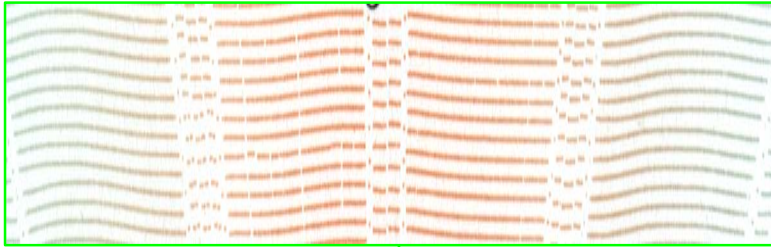
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The new U.S. Naturalization Certificate contains similar background printing as in previously issued certificates. One of the visible differences on the new security-enhanced certificate is the addition of multi color inks shifting from teal to orange and back to teal (rainbow printing) in the “sunburst” design radiating away from the eagle in the lower center of the certificate (as seen below on the left). The core of the printed text has also been updated to comply with the Immigration and Naturalization Act, by adding the bearer’s residence. In the printed text “**CIS Registration No.**” is now the “**USCIS Registration No.**”; and the title “**Director**” has been removed from the USCIS signature line. Other features illustrated below include the microtext and multiple DHS watermarks visible under transmitted light

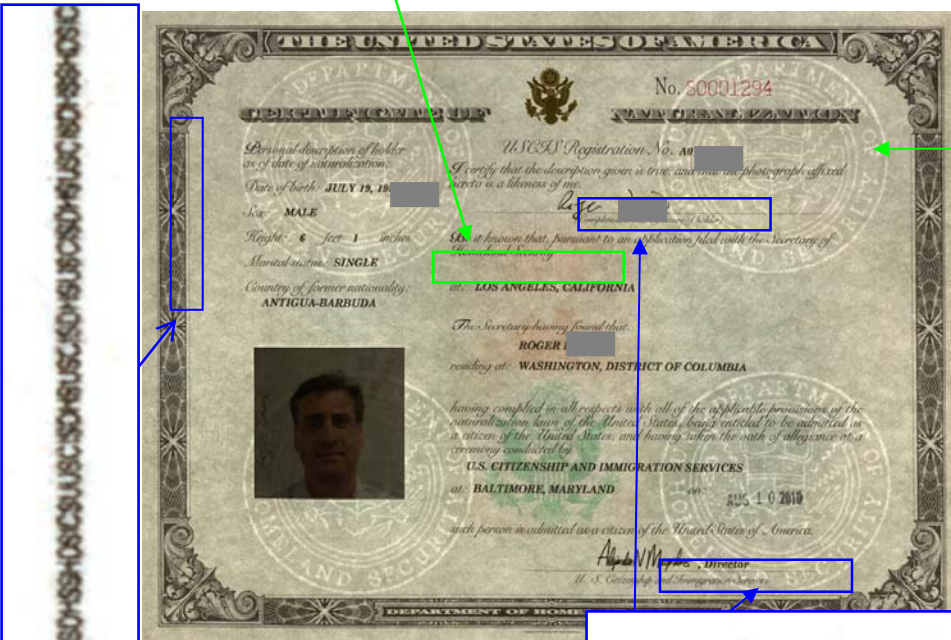
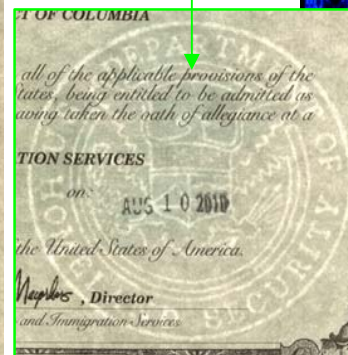
Magnification of multi color ink printing shifting from teal to orange and back to teal (Rainbow printing)



Attached photo version viewed under ultraviolet light. The “sunburst” pattern, security fibers and security text alternately reads “DHS/USCIS N550” and “N550 DHS/USCIS” across the revised certificate are visible only with UV light.



Multiple DHS seals are visible on the certificate under transmitted light to the left. Enlargement of DHS seal below.



Magnification of the printed photo area when viewed with UV light. The UV security fibers and security text “DHS/USCIS N550” and “N550 DHS/USCIS” are visible in the photo block area. (Note: these features are obscured in the attached photo version).

Micro printing in the signature lines and borders of the new certificate, magnified in the blue boxes reads “DHSUSCIS” in a repeated pattern.

