The TN visa was developed as part of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) to facilitate the entry of Canadian (TN-1) and Mexican (TN-2) citizens to the United States to engage in professional business activities on a temporary basis.

Both Canadian and Mexican citizens can be admitted to the United States in TN status in increments of up to three years. Extensions of stay are also granted in up to three-year increments. There is no cumulative total limit on the time a Canadian or Mexican citizen can be in TN status. Status can be renewed each year indefinitely, provided that the stay remains temporary in nature.

Documents Required

The basic documentation required for Mexicans and Canadians applying for TN visas are:

1) Proof of citizenship

2) Detailed letter from the employer which affirms the applicant’s profession, includes a detailed job description, states the period of appointment, references the educational qualifications or credentials which demonstrate the applicant has professional level status, and describes arrangements for payment for the services to be rendered.
   - The TN is now granted in three year increments. It is important to note that the period of appointment can be for up to three years. If the letter reflects a period of appointment for more than three years, the international applicant for the TN might have difficulties at the border or may be denied.

3) Evidence that the job qualifies as one of the approved NAFTA occupations. (http://www.nafsa.org/_/file/_/amresource/8cf2146.htm)

4) Evidence that the individual has the required credentials for the job
   a. The TN visa applicant must present his/her credentials, including diplomas, transcripts, licenses, certificates or other documentation. The applicant should be prepared to present these documents in their original forms.
   b. Any credentials obtained outside the U.S., Canada or Mexico should be accompanied by a credentials evaluation.
   c. In general, there should be a reasonable connection between the academic or professional credentials of the individual and the duties that will be performed. If the connection is not obvious, a reasonable argument should be provided to support the application.


6) A statement that the purpose of the entry to the U.S. is temporary

Visa Requirements

A Mexican citizen must obtain a TN visa (dependents must obtain a TD visa) prior to being admitted to the United States under NAFTA. Canadian citizens are exempt from the visa requirement in general. He/she applies for admission to the U.S. directly with the Department of Homeland Security at a port of entry.