

NEWS UPDATE

January 13, 2010

Subject: Fiscal Year 2011 H-1B Filing Deadline April 1, 2010

We wish to remind you that the filing deadline for FY 2011 H-1B Cap subject petitions is fast approaching on Thursday, April 1, 2010. The current law limits to 85,000 the number of foreign workers who may be approved for an H-1B petition, with 20,000 set aside for U.S. advanced degree holders. Given the economic climate last year, H-1B petitions were accepted until December 21, 2009. However, USCIS reported a significant increase in H-1B petition filings at the end of 2009, and we anticipate that trend to continue for the April 1, 2010 filing. In prior years, USCIS has almost immediately run out of H-1B petitions on the first filing day, and had to resort to a computer-generated random selection process.

Successful beneficiaries will be eligible to work in H-1B status as of October 1, 2010. Also, if foreign nationals have post-completion OPT and USCIS approves their H-1B petition, post-completion OPT will be automatically extended through October 1, 2010, to enable them to remain in the U.S. and to continue employment. Please contact us to discuss continuing work eligibility for all prospective H-1B candidates.

As soon as possible, please provide us with information for any foreign national for whom you will sponsor a FY 2011 H-1B petition. This will help to ensure that all petitions are prepared in a timely manner.

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