

News & Types: Immigration Update

Business Immigration Weekly for November 13, 2015

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Practices: Immigration

DECEMBER 2015 VISA BULLETIN UPDATE

The Department of State (DOS) released the monthly Visa Bulletin and below is a summary of green card Final Action Dates and Dates For Filing for employment-based immigrant visa categories for the month of December.

PLEASE NOTE: Per a new USCIS policy, a week after the Department of State (DOS) issues its monthly Visa Bulletin indicating immigrant visa availability for the next month, the USCIS will make its own separate determination on green card availability. If green cards are available for a certain category, the USCIS will post its own notice on its website at: www.uscis.gov/visabulletininfo to alert immigrants applying in those categories with more availability, that they may use the Dates for Filing chart and not the Final Action Date chart. Thus immigrants may no longer rely on the DOS Visa Bulletin, but must wait one week after its publication and then look to the USCIS to see whether a green card is available to them.

GREEN CARD "DATES FOR FILING"

Individuals with priority dates prior to the dates listed in the chart below are eligible to file their green card applications during the month of December.

Employment-Based	All Chargeability Areas Except Those Listed	CHINA-mainland born	INDIA	MEXICO	PHILIPPINES
1st	Current	Current	Current	Current	Current
2nd	Current	01JAN13	01JUL09	Current	Current
3rd	01SEP15	01OCT13	01JUL05	01SEP15	01JAN10
Other Workers	01SEP15	01JAN07	01JUL05	01SEP15	01JAN10

4th	Current	Current	Current	Current	Current
Certain Religious Workers	Current	Current	Current	Current	Current
5th Non-Regional Center (C5 and T5)	Current	01MAY15	Current	Current	Current
5th Regional Center (I5 and R5)	Current	01MAY15	Current	Current	Current

GREEN CARD APPROVAL "FINAL ACTION DATES"

Individuals with priority dates prior to the dates listed in the chart below have a green card available to them during the month of December, therefore, the US government may take final action on their case.

Employment- Based	All Chargeability Areas Except Those Listed	CHINA - mainland born	INDIA	MEXICO	PHILIPPINES
1st	Current	Current	Current	Current	Current
2nd	Current	01FEB12	01JUN07	Current	Current
3rd	01SEP15	15APR12	22APR04	01SEP15	01AUG07
Other Workers	01SEP15	01AUG06	22APR04	01SEP15	01AUG07
4th	Current	Current	Current	Current	Current
Certain Religious Workers	Current	Current	Current	Current	Current

5th Non-Regional Center (C5 and T5)	Current	15DEC13	Current	Current	Current
5th Regional Center (I5 and R5)	Current	15DEC13	Current	Current	Current

BELOW IS A SUMMARY OF CHANGES FROM THE VISA BULLETIN FOR LAST MONTH FOR FINAL ACTION DATES:

- The EB-2 China category remains stalled at February 1, 2012
- The EB-2 India category has advanced August 1, 2006 to June 1, 2007
- The EB-3 World and Mexico categories advance slightly from August 15, 2015 to September 1, 2015
- The EB-3 China category advances several from January 1, 2012 to April 15, 2012
- The EB-3 India category advances several weeks from April 1, 2004 to April 22, 2004
- The EB-3 Philippines category advances from June 15, 2007 to August 1, 2007
- The EB-5 China advances slightly from November 22, 2013 to December 15, 2013

Month-to-month availability of immigrant visas varies and depends on many factors. These forecasts do not guarantee future availability.