

News & Types:

Visa Bulletin for May 2016

4/15/2016

Practices: Immigration

VISA BULLETIN FOR MAY 2016

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 dates for employment-based immigrant visa categories for the month of May.

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" AVAILABILITY DATES

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 May.

Employment-Based	All Chargeability Areas Except Those Listed	CHINA-mainland born	INDIA	MEXICO	PHILIPPINES
1st	CURRENT	CURRENT	CURRENT	CURRENT	CURRENT
2nd	CURRENT	01SEP12	CURRENT	22NOV08	CURRENT
3rd	15FEB16	15AUG13	15FEB16	01SEP04	15FEB16

Employment-Based	All Chargeability Areas Except Those Listed	CHINA-mainland born	INDIA	MEXICO	PHILIPPINES
Other Workers	15FEB16	22APR07	15FEB16	01SEP04	15FEB16
4th	CURRENT	CURRENT	01JAN10	CURRENT	CURRENT
Certain Religious Workers	CURRENT	CURRENT	01JAN10	CURRENT	CURRENT
5th Non-Regional Center (C5 and T5)	CURRENT	08FEB14	CURRENT	CURRENT	CURRENT
5th Regional Center (I5 and R5)	CURRENT	08FEB14	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 May, 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
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Employment- Based	All Chargeability Areas Except Those Listed	CHINA - mainland born	INDIA	MEXICO	PHILIPPINES
1st	CURRENT	CURRENT	CURRENT	CURRENT	CURRENT
2nd	CURRENT	01JUN13	01JUL09	CURRENT	CURRENT
3rd	CURRENT	01MAY15	01JUL05	CURRENT	01JAN10
Other Workers	CURRENT	01APR08	01JUL05	CURRENT	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

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

- The EB-2 China category has stalled at September 1, 2012.
- The EB-2 India category has advanced several weeks from November 8, 2008 to November 22, 2008.
- The EB-3 World and Mexico categories have stalled at February 15, 2016.
- The EB-3 China category has stalled at August 15, 2013.
- The EB-3 India category advances several weeks from August 8, 2004 to September 1, 2004.
- The EB-3 Philippines category advances several months from May 1, 2008 to August 8, 2008.
- The EB-5 China advances a few days from February 1, 2014 to February 8, 2014.
- Cap on nationals from El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras in the following categories: EB-3, Other Workers, EB-4 and Certain Religious Workers.

Month-to-month availability of immigrant visas varies and depends on many factors. The entire Visa Bulletin can be viewed at: <https://travel.state.gov/content/visas/en/law-and-policy/bulletin/2016/visa-bulletin-for-may-2016.html>