

**APRIL 2008  
VISA AVAILABILITY**

The bulletin issued by the Visa Office of the Bureau of Consular Affairs of the U.S. Department of State gives the following availability position for issuance of immigrant visas during April 2008:

**Persons Chargeable to India**

**Family-Sponsored Preferences**

1st Preference	Feb 22, 2002
2nd Preference	
2A	May 08, 2003
2B	Mar 22, 1999
3rd Preference	May 22, 2000
4th Preference	Nov 22, 1996

**Employment-Based Preferences**

1st Preference	Current
2nd Preference	Dec 01, 2003
3rd Preference	Oct 01, 2001
Other Workers	Mar 01, 2002
4 <sup>th</sup> Preference	Current
Certain Religious Workers	Current
5 <sup>th</sup> Preference	Current
Targeted Emp Areas	Current

**Persons Chargeable to Other Countries**

For other chargeability areas, including Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, United Kingdom, and the nations of Africa, the cut-off dates for April 2008 are:

**Family-Sponsored Preferences**

1st Preference	Feb 22, 2002
2nd Preference	
2A	May 08, 2003
2B	Mar 22, 1999
3rd Preference	May 22, 2000
4th Preference	Jul 22, 1997

**Employment-Based Preferences**

1st Preference	Current
2nd Preference	Current
3rd Preference	Jul 01, 2005
Other Workers	Mar 01, 2002
4th Preference	Current
Certain Religious Workers	Current
5th Preference	Current
Targeted Emp Areas	Current

**USCIS WARNS AGAINST FILING  
MULTIPLE H1B PETITIONS**

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services ["USCIS"] now prohibits employers from filing multiple H-1B petitions for the same employee. These changes will ensure that companies filing H-1B petitions subject to congressionally mandated numerical limits have an equal chance to employ an H-1B worker. To ensure a fair and orderly distribution of available H-1B visas, USCIS will deny or revoke multiple petitions filed by an employer for the same H-1B worker and will not refund the filing fees submitted with multiple or duplicative petitions.

This rule also stipulates that if USCIS determines the number of H-1B petitions received meets the cap within the first five business days of accepting applications [beginning April 1, 2008] for the coming fiscal year, USCIS will apply a random selection process among all H-1B petitions received during this time period.

If the 20,000 advanced degree limit is reached during the first five business days, USCIS will randomly select from those petitions ahead of conducting the random selection for the 65,000 limit. Petitions subject to the 20,000 limit that are not selected in that random selection

**will be considered with the other H-1B petitions in the random selection for the 65,000 limit.**

**The rule further clarifies that USCIS will deny petitions that incorrectly claim an exemption from any H-1B numerical limits. Those filing fees will not be returned.**