

DECEMBER 05 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 December 2005:

Persons Chargeable to India

Family-Sponsored Preferences

| | |
|----------------|--------------|
| 1st Preference | Apr 22, 2001 |
| 2nd Preference | |
| 2A | Jan 01, 2002 |
| 2B | Jun 08, 1996 |
| 3rd Preference | Jun 08, 1998 |
| 4th Preference | Nov 15, 1993 |

Employment-Based Preferences

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| 1st Preference | Feb 01, 2003 |
| 2nd Preference | Jul 01, 2000 |
| 3rd Preference | Jan 01, 1999 |
| Schedule A Workers | Current |
| Other Workers | Oct 01, 2000 |
| 4 th Preference | Current |
| Certain Religious Workers | Current |
| 5th 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 December 2005 are:

Family-Sponsored Preferences

| | |
|----------------|--------------|
| 1st Preference | Apr 22, 2001 |
| 2nd Preference | |
| 2A | Jan 01, 2002 |
| 2B | Jun 08, 1996 |
| 3rd Preference | Jun 08, 1998 |
| 4th Preference | May 01, 1994 |

Employment-Based Preferences

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| 1st Preference | Current |
| 2nd Preference | Current |
| 3rd Preference | Mar 15, 2001 |
| Schedule A Workers | Current |
| Other Workers | Oct 01, 2000 |
| 4th Preference | Current |
| Certain Religious Workers | Current |
| 5th Preference | Current |
| Targeted Emp Areas | Current |

COMPUTER STAFFING FIRM TO PAY \$2.65 MILLION IN BACK WAGES

Computech Inc., a Southfield, Mich., firm that places computer professionals at locations throughout the United States has agreed to pay \$2,250,000 in back wages to 232 computer professionals and a \$400,000 fine to settle immigration law violations. The company is also prohibited from participation in the H-1B visa program for 18 months.

Computech contracts with other firms to supply computer professionals who work on the premises of those firms. It has customers across the U.S., with the largest numbers of its workers in Michigan, Illinois, California, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Texas and Minnesota.

An investigation by the Labor Department's Wage and Hour Division found that Computech brought non-immigrant H-1B workers into the U.S., but failed to pay them the minimum required wage rates in the areas where they were employed. The investigation also disclosed that Computech frequently "benched" the workers without compensation contrary to the rules of the H-1B program.