

## DECEMBER 2006 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 2006:

### Persons Chargeable to India

#### Family-Sponsored Preferences

1st Preference	Apr 22, 2001
2nd Preference	
2A	Mar 01, 2002
2B	Mar 08, 1997
3rd Preference	Dec 08, 1998
4th Preference	Sep 22, 1995

#### Employment-Based Preferences

1st Preference	Current
2nd Preference	Jan 08, 2003
3rd Preference	Apr 22, 2001
Schedule A Workers	Unavailable
Other Workers	Oct 01, 2001
4 <sup>th</sup> Preference	Current
Certain Religious Workers	Current
Iraqi & Afghani Translators	Sep 18, 2006
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 2006 are:

#### Family-Sponsored Preferences

1st Preference	Apr 22, 2001
2nd Preference	
2A	Mar 01, 2002
2B	Mar 08, 1997
3rd Preference	Dec 08, 1998
4th Preference	Dec 01, 1995

### Employment-Based Preferences

1st Preference	Current
2nd Preference	Current
3rd Preference	Aug 01, 2002
Schedule A Workers	Unavailable
Other Workers	Oct 01, 2001
4th Preference	Current
Certain Religious Workers	Current
Iraqi & Afghani Translators	Sep 18, 2006
5th Preference	Current
Targeted Emp Areas	Current

### AMERICAN ENTITIES CALL FOR A REASONABLE SOLUTION

On November 21, over 900 American businesses, universities, and hospitals, have written to the United States Congress asking for a reasonable solution to H-1B blackouts and lengthy Green Card backlogs. Here are relevant portions from that presentation:

*The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services announced that the FY 2007 numerical cap limiting the H-1B program for workers was reached on May 26, 2006, four months before the start of the fiscal year. This means that U.S. companies are being denied access to topflight global talent for over 16 months, disrupting—if not destroying—crucial research and development projects in critical industries. It will also retard technological innovation and undermine our ability to create and sustain domestic employment opportunities.*

*A similar crisis is occurring with EB green cards. Because these visas are distributed equally among all countries, with a quota set for each country, backlogs have resulted for individuals coming from high-demand countries, even when the overall cap has not been*

***reached and regardless of the fact that these high-demand countries are often the only source of individuals capable of filling high-skilled jobs American businesses need. .... Not surprisingly, these talented professionals often tire of waiting, and leave the U.S. to put their knowledge and skills to use in other countries eager to compete with and surpass the U.S.***