

JULY 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 July 2006:

Persons Chargeable to India

Family-Sponsored Preferences

1st Preference	Jan 01, 2000
2nd Preference	
2A	Sep 01, 1999
2B	Aug 22, 1996
3rd Preference	Aug 22, 1998
4th Preference	Oct 01, 1994

Employment-Based Preferences

1st Preference	Jan 01, 2006
2nd Preference	Jan 01, 2003
3rd Preference	Apr 15, 2001
Schedule A Workers	Current
Other Workers	Unavailable
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 July 2006 are:

Family-Sponsored Preferences

1st Preference	Jan 01, 2000
2nd Preference	
2A	Sep 01, 1999
2B	Aug 22, 1996
3rd Preference	Aug 22, 1998
4th Preference	May 01, 1995

Employment-Based Preferences

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

WESTERNGECO TO PAY \$19.6 MILLION FINE FOR VISA FRAUD

Houston-based WesternGeco will pay an \$18 million fine for knowingly causing its foreign employees to file fraudulent applications for U.S. visas and to make false statements to U.S. consular officers about their employment according to AP. It will also pay \$1.6 million for the cost of the investigation.

Federal prosecutors will defer criminal prosecution of WesternGeco for one year. The company worked to correct its practices in 2005. WesternGeco will avoid prosecution if it continues to comply with federal law, pays its fines, and keep cooperating with authorities.

U.S. Attorney Don DeGabrielle says this agreement obligates WesternGeco to continue its demonstrated commitment to follow the law or face criminal prosecution, even after paying the hefty civil penalties.