

## MAY 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 May 2006:

### Persons Chargeable to India

#### Family-Sponsored Preferences

1st Preference	Apr 22, 2001
2nd Preference	
2A	Mar 01, 2002
2B	Jul 15, 1996
3rd Preference	Jul 22, 1998
4th Preference	Jun 01, 1994

#### Employment-Based Preferences

1st Preference	Jul 01, 2005
2nd Preference	Jan 01, 2003
3rd Preference	Mar 01, 2001
Schedule A Workers	Current
Other Workers	Oct 01, 2000
4 <sup>th</sup> 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 May 2006 are:

#### Family-Sponsored Preferences

1st Preference	Apr 22, 2001
2nd Preference	
2A	Mar 01, 2002
2B	Jul 15, 1996
3rd Preference	Jul 22, 1998
4th Preference	Jan 01, 1995

### Employment-Based Preferences

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

### AFFIDAVIT OF SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS EASED

Effective immediately, sponsors filing an Affidavit of Support [Form I-864] are required to submit only their Federal tax return for their most recent tax year, current as of the date of execution of the I-864. [Three years' tax returns are no longer required]. The I-864 will remain valid indefinitely absent other evidence of failure to meet the public charge provisions of the law. For "public charge" determination, the poverty guidelines in effect on the date of filing with the National Visa Center or with the U. S. consular post will be looked at.

Updated tax returns will not be requested absent positive evidence of public charge issues.

The sponsor's signature on Form I-864 does not need to be notarized anymore. Photocopies of Form I-864 that are submitted for derivative applicants accompanying the principal alien do not require an original signature or notarization.