

**OCTOBER 2007
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 October 2007:

Persons Chargeable to India

Family-Sponsored Preferences

1st Preference	Nov 08, 2001
2nd Preference	
2A	Nov 15, 2002
2B	Aug 15, 1998
3rd Preference	Feb 15, 2000
4th Preference	May 08, 1996

Employment-Based Preferences

1st Preference	Current
2nd Preference	Apr 01, 2004
3rd Preference	Apr 22, 2001
Other Workers	Oct 01, 2001
4 th Preference	Current
Certain Religious Workers	Current
5 th 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 October 2007 are:

Family-Sponsored Preferences

1st Preference	Nov 08, 2001
2nd Preference	
2A	Nov 15, 2002
2B	Aug 15, 1998
3rd Preference	Feb 15, 2000
4th Preference	Apr 15, 1997

Employment-Based Preferences

1st Preference	Current
2nd Preference	Current
3rd Preference	Aug 01, 2002
Other Workers	Oct 01, 2001
4th Preference	Current
Certain Religious Workers	Current
5th Preference	Current
Targeted Emp Areas	Current

**U Status amended
Regulation to be Effective
October 17, 2007**

Congress created the U nonimmigrant classification in the Battered Immigrant Women Protection Act of 2000 (BIWPA), amended by Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005 (VAWA 2005), further amended by Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act Technical Corrections (2006).

The interim rule, to be effective October 17, 2007, amends Department of Homeland Security regulations to establish the requirements and procedures for aliens seeking U nonimmigrant classification as Victims of Criminal Activity.

It is recognized that alien victims may not have legal status and, therefore, may be reluctant to help in the investigation or prosecution of criminal activity for fear of removal from the United States. In passing this legislation, Congress intended to strengthen the ability of law enforcement agencies to investigate and prosecute cases of domestic violence, sexual assault,

trafficking of aliens and other crimes while offering protection to victims of such crimes.

This interim rule also amends existing regulations to include U nonimmigrants among the nonimmigrant status holders able to seek a waiver of documentary requirements to gain admission to the United States and to permit nonimmigrants to change status to that of a U nonimmigrant where applicable.

We shall discuss in detail the requirements to obtain U classification in the next article.