

OCTOBER 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 2004:

Persons Chargeable to India

Family-Sponsored Preferences

1st Preference	Oct 22, 2000
2nd Preference	
2A	May 01, 2000
2B	Jul 01, 1995
3rd Preference	Oct 22, 1997
4th Preference	Nov 01, 1991

Employment-Based Preferences

1st Preference	Current
2nd Preference	Current
3rd Preference	Current
Other Workers	Current
4th 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 October 2004 are:

Family-Sponsored Preferences

1st Preference	Oct 22, 2000
2nd Preference	
2A	May 01, 2000
2B	Jul 01, 1995
3rd Preference	Oct 22, 1997
4th Preference	Aug 15, 1992

Employment-Based Preferences

1st Preference	Current
2nd Preference	Current
3rd Preference	Current
Other Workers	Current
4th Preference	Current
Certain Religious	
Workers	Current
5th Preference	Current
Targeted Emp	
Areas	Current

H1B GONE FOR THE WHOLE YEAR

A press note released late in the evening of October 1, 2004 by the Citizenship and Immigration Services has shocked the business community and the professionals aspiring to obtain H1B status.

USCIS announced, at approximately 8:00 pm on October 1, 2004, the first day of fiscal year 2005, that it has enough H-1Bs in the pipeline to meet the fiscal year 2005 cap. All cap-subject cases received after the end of the business day October 1 will be returned.

What this means is that a qualified professional who aspires to obtain an H1B status will have to wait one whole year. On October 1, **2005**, a fresh supply of H1B visa numbers will become available.