

Department of State Releases May 2011 Visa Bulletin

April 11, 2011

The U.S. Department of State (DOS) has released its May 2011 Visa Bulletin. The Visa Bulletin sets out per country priority date cutoffs that regulate the flow of adjustment of status (AOS) and consular immigrant visa applications. Foreign nationals may file applications to adjust their status to that of permanent resident, or to obtain approval of an immigrant visa application at an American embassy or consulate abroad, provided that their priority dates are prior to the cutoff dates specified by the DOS.

What Does the May 2011 Bulletin Say?

EB-1: All EB-1 categories remain current.

EB-2: Priority dates remain current for foreign nationals in the EB-2 category from all countries except China and India.

The relevant priority date cutoffs for Indian and Chinese nationals are as follows:

China: August 1, 2006 (forward movement of one week)

India: July 1, 2006 (forward movement of seven weeks)

Significant forward movement in EB-2 priority dates for India and China did not occur in May as anticipated.

EB-3: There is continued backlog in the EB-3 category.

The relevant priority date cutoffs for foreign nationals in the EB-3 category are as follows:

China: April 15, 2004 (forward movement of six weeks)

India: April 15, 2002 (forward movement of one week)

Mexico: September 8, 2004 (forward movement of four months)

Philippines: August 22, 2005 (forward movement of one month)

Rest of the World: August 22, 2005 (forward movement of one month)

How This Affects You

Priority date cutoffs are assessed on a monthly basis by the DOS, based on anticipated demand. Cutoff dates can move forward or backward, or remain static and unchanged. Employers and employees should take the immigrant visa backlogs into account in their long-term planning, and take measures to mitigate their effects. To see the May 2011 Visa Bulletin in its entirety, please visit the DOS website at http://www.travel.state.gov/visa/bulletin/bulletin_5424.html.

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Now Available: *AILA's Focus on Immigration Practice Under AC21*

Written by Eleanor Pelta and A. James Vázquez-Azpiri, *AILA's Focus on Immigration Practice Under AC21* provides invaluable insight on the effect AC21 has had on the H-1B visa category. For more information, please visit www.ailapubs.org/ac21.html or call 1.800.982.2939 to order a copy.

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