

The Shapiro Law Group

Illinois Business Immigration Lawyer

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Practice Areas

BUSINESS

L-1 Visas

H-1B

H-1B Transfers

Visas

TN Visas (NAFTA)

Special Visas for Other Countries:

- Australia
- Chile / SingaporeE-1

E-1 Visas

E-2 Visas

PERM Labor Certification

HOSPITALS /HEALTHCARE

H-1C Visas

H-1B Visas for Doctors

FAMILY

Spouse / Fiancée Visas

Permanent Residence for Family within U.S.

Naturalization /Citizenship

AMNESTY

Update: Foreign Worker Slots Remaining for FY 2012

November 17th, 2011 by [admin](#)

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (“USCIS”) still has slots available in fiscal year 2012 for foreign workers in specialty occupations under the H-1B program, but the window of opportunity is closing rapidly.

Employers who seek an employment start date on or after October 1, 2011 (the start of the 2012 fiscal year) for foreign workers in specialty occupations can still file visa petitions on behalf of those workers. By rule, the specialty occupations include, but are not limited to: scientists, engineers and computer programmers.

Petitions should be filed as soon as possible in order to avoid being shut down by the annual cap limitation for the H-1B program (cap amount of 65,000 for FY 2012). Up to 20,000 petitions can also be filed outside of the cap amount on behalf of foreign workers with advanced degrees, but the USCIS has stated that this year’s quota of such advanced degree petitions has already been met (see below).

The current H-1B petition counts are as follows through November 14, 2011:

- H-1B Regular Cap: 56,300 petitions
- H-1B Advanced Degree Exemption: 20,000 petitions

Up to 6,800 visas may also be set aside for workers from Chile and Singapore, pursuant to the H-1B1 program arising out of the U.S.-Chile and U.S.-Singapore Free Trade Agreements.

H-1B petitions, in order to be properly filed, must be complete and accurate. Necessary documents include, but are not limited to the following:

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- a Form I-129 petition with appropriate supplements;
- labor condition applications on Form ETA 9035;
- required evidence of a beneficiary's educational background;
- duplicate copies of certain documents; and
- Consulate-specific forms required by the Department of State where appropriate.

If you are in need of more information about business immigration, please check the pertinent section of [our Website](#) or call our offices at (847)564-0712.