

AUGUST 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 August 2006:

Persons Chargeable to India

Family-Sponsored Preferences

1st Preference	Jan 01, 1997
2nd Preference	
2A	Sep 08, 1999
2B	Sep 22, 1996
3rd Preference	Sep 08, 1998
4th Preference	Jan 01, 1995

Employment-Based Preferences

1st Preference	Jan 01, 2006
2nd Preference	Unavailable
3rd Preference	Apr 01, 2001
Schedule A Workers	Current
Other Workers	Unavailable
4 th 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 August 2006 are:

Family-Sponsored Preferences

1st Preference	Jan 01, 1997
2nd Preference	
2A	Sep 08, 1999
2B	Sep 22, 1996
3rd Preference	Sep 08, 1998
4th Preference	Jun 15, 1995

Employment-Based Preferences

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

CHILD PROTECTION AND SAFETY ACT SIGNED

President Bush has just signed into law the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006. It strengthens penalties against child predators. The Act also bars convicted sex offenders from having family-based petitions approved and makes failure to register as a sex offender a deportable offense.

In particular, section 402 bars all U.S. citizens and permanent residents convicted of a specified offense against a minor (as defined in section 111 of this Act) from ever petitioning for any family member (spouse, children, parents, siblings, fiancées) for permanent residency.

The Secretary of Homeland Security, in his sole and non-reviewable discretion, can determine whether a waiver of such bar is available if such U.S. citizen or permanent resident [a convicted child predator] poses no risk to the family member seeking permanent residency.