

JANUARY 06 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 January 2006:

Persons Chargeable to India

Family-Sponsored Preferences

1st Preference	Apr 22, 2001
2nd Preference	
2A	Jan 15, 2002
2B	Jun 22, 1996
3rd Preference	Jul 01, 1998
4th Preference	Dec 22, 1993

Employment-Based Preferences

1st Preference	Jul 01, 2003
2nd Preference	Jan 01, 2001
3rd Preference	Jun 01, 1999
Schedule A Workers	Current
Other Workers	Apr 01, 2001
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 January 2006 are:

Family-Sponsored Preferences

1st Preference	Apr 22, 2001
2nd Preference	
2A	Jan 15, 2002
2B	Jun 22, 1996
3rd Preference	Jul 01, 1998
4th Preference	Jun 15, 1994

Employment-Based Preferences

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

VAWA 2005 CLEARED

The Senate and the House have cleared for the President's signature the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2005 (VAWA 2005). The VAWA provisions were contained in the Department of Justice Appropriations Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 2006-2009, amended and passed by the Senate on December 16, and cleared by the House on December 17. The President is expected to sign the legislation.

The final bill does not include the amendment that would have prohibited any person convicted of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, trafficking, elder abuse, or dating violence from sponsoring a visa applicant in the future.