

SEPTEMBER 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 September 2004:

Persons Chargeable to India

Family-Sponsored Preferences

1st Preference	Oct 22, 2000
2nd Preference	
2A	Apr 15, 2000
2B	Jul 01, 1995
3rd Preference	Oct 15, 1997
4th Preference	Sep 22, 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 September 2004 are:

Family-Sponsored Preferences

1st Preference	Oct 22, 2000
2nd Preference	
2A	Apr 15, 2000
2B	Jul 01, 1995
3rd Preference	Oct 15, 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

NEW PHOTO SPECS

Most of us will recall that photographs required for immigration purposes have had different specifications than the ones required for U.S. passports. That has now changed.

Effective September 1, 2004, all immigration offices will require, without exception, full frontal face color photos [rather than three-quarter face position required previously].

Where more than one photo is required, all photos must be identical.

The processing of filings by applicants or petitioners who have already submitted materials that include color photos with the three-quarter standard **will not** be affected by this change.