

SEPTEMBER 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 September 2006:

Persons Chargeable to India

Family-Sponsored Preferences

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

Employment-Based Preferences

1st Preference	Current
2nd Preference	Unavailable
3rd Preference	Apr 15, 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 September 2006 are:

Family-Sponsored Preferences

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

Employment-Based Preferences

1st Preference	Current
2nd Preference	Current
3rd Preference	Mar 01, 2002
Schedule A Workers	Current
Other Workers	Unavailable
4th Preference	Current
Certain Religious Workers	Current
5th Preference	Current
Targeted Emp Areas	Current

USCIS EXPANDS PREMIUM PROCESSING SERVICE

Beginning August 28, USCIS has begun accepting Premium Processing requests for petitions involving two employment-based immigration "categories" within the third employment-based "preference." Those categories involve EB-3 Professionals, (i.e. immigrant workers with bachelor degrees who are members of the professions), and EB-3 Skilled Workers, (i.e. immigrant workers capable of performing skilled labor requiring at least two years of education, training or experience). Employers file for both categories using an Immigrant Petition for Alien Worker (Form I-140). Premium Processing is not available to "other workers" in the EB-3 category for jobs that do not require two years of education, training or experience.

USCIS has released a revised Request for Premium Processing Services form (Form I-907), to include expansion of Premium Processing Service to the newly designated classifications. The new Form I-907 bears a revision date of *August 28, 2006*, with the designation "N" shown after the revision date.