

# eMPLOYMENT BULLETIN

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## USCIS Will Begin Accepting New H-1B Petitions

On April 2, 2007, the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) will begin accepting petitions from employers seeking to hire foreign nationals in H-1B temporary professional worker immigration status for federal fiscal year 2008, which starts October 1, 2007. As you may know, there is an annual limit of 65,000 new petitions that may be filed. We expect this limit to be reached very quickly after the filing period commences. Last year, the cap was reached on May 26, 2006, about 8 weeks into the filing period and more than 4 months before the start of the fiscal year. This year, we expect even higher demand for H-1B petitions and that the cap will be reached sooner.

There is a separate annual limit of 20,000 for foreign nationals who hold an advanced degree from an accredited institution of higher education in the U.S. Last year, this limit was reached on July 26, 2006. While we expect the U.S. advanced degree H-1B cap will last longer than the 65,000 cap for regular H-1B petitions, it will still likely be reached very early in the filing period.

If you have any foreign nationals for whom you wish to submit an H-1B petition within the fiscal year 2008 annual limit, we recommend preparing the petition now and filing it by April 2, 2007.

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