

News & Types: Immigration Alerts

IMMIGRATION ALERT - VISA BULLETIN "DATES FOR FILING" RETROGRESSED FOR OCTOBER 2015

9/25/2015

Practices: Immigration

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October 2015 Visa Bulletin Update

On September 25, 2015, the Department of State (DOS) issued a revised monthly Visa Bulletin for the month of October 2015 that retrogressed some of the most important categories that would have allowed thousands of immigrants to submit their green card applications next month. The newly issued Visa Bulletin supersedes the previous October Visa Bulletin that was released on September 8, 2015. It is highly unusual for the DOS to issue revised Visa Bulletins. In the revised October Visa Bulletin, the DOS does not provide an explanation as to why the priority dates are modified.

The categories affected are the following "Dates for Filing":

1. EB-2 China from May 1, 2014 to January 1, 2013
2. EB-2 India from July 1, 2011 to July 1, 2009
3. EB-3 and Other Workers for Philippines from January 1, 2015 to January 1, 2010

The DOS did not make any changes to the "Final Action Dates" for October. Unfortunately, many individuals relied on the initially issued Visa Bulletin and began making preparations for the filing of their and their family's green card applications. This sudden change in policy is unfortunate particularly because the DOS had indicated in statements earlier this month that it would not retrogress the "Dates for Filing" without sufficient advance warning. The Visa Bulletin for the month of November 2015 should be issued by the second week of October, providing immigrants and stakeholders with a better idea of how these dates will move in the coming months.

Green Card "Dates for Filing"

Individuals with priority dates prior to the dates listed in the chart below are eligible to file their green card applications during the month of October. The revised dates appear in **bold** below.

Category	All Countries Except Those Listed	China (mainland)	India	Mexico	Philippines
EB-1	Current	Current	Current	Current	Current
EB-2	Current	01/01/13	07/01/09	Current	Current
EB-3	09/01/15	10/01/13	07/01/05	09/01/15	01/01/10
Other Workers	09/01/15	01/01/07	07/01/05	09/01/15	01/01/10
4th	Current	Current	Current	Current	Current
Certain Religious Workers	Current	Current	Current	Current	Current
5th Targeted Employment Areas/ Regional Centers and Pilot Programs	Current	05/01/15	Current	Current	Current

GREEN CARD APPROVAL "FINAL ACTION DATES"

Individuals with priority dates prior to the dates listed in the chart below have a green card available to them during the month of October, therefore, the US government may take final action and approve their case.

Category	All Countries Except Those Listed	China (mainland)	India	Mexico	Philippines
EB-1	Current	Current	Current	Current	Current
EB-2	Current	01/01/12	05/01/05	Current	Current

EB-3	08/15/15	10/15/11	03/08/04	08/15/15	01/01/07
Other Workers	08/15/15	01/01/06	03/08/04	08/15/15	01/01/07
4th	Current	Current	Current	Current	Current
Certain Religious Workers	U	U	U	U	U
5 th Non-Regional Center (C5 and T5)	Current	10/08/13	Current	Current	Current

Month-to-month availability of immigrant visas varies and depends on many factors. These forecasts do not guarantee future availability.

Additional information about priority date movements will be contained in our firm's future Immigration Updates when it becomes available.