

JANUARY 2008 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 2008:

Persons Chargeable to India

Family-Sponsored Preferences

1st Preference	Jan 08, 2002
2nd Preference	
2A	Jan 15, 2003
2B	Oct 15, 1998
3rd Preference	Apr 08, 2000
4th Preference	Aug15, 1996

Employment-Based Preferences

1st Preference	Current
2nd Preference	Jan 01, 2002
3rd Preference	May 01, 2001
Other Workers	Oct 01, 2001
4 th Preference	Current
Certain Religious Workers	Current
5 th 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 2008 are:

Family-Sponsored Preferences

1st Preference	Jan 08, 2002
2nd Preference	
2A	Jan 15, 2003
2B	Oct 15, 1998
3rd Preference	Apr 08, 2000
4th Preference	Jun 22, 1997

Employment-Based Preferences

1st Preference	Current
2nd Preference	Current
3rd Preference	Sep 01, 2002
Other Workers	Oct 01, 2001
4th Preference	Current
Certain Religious Workers	Current
5th Preference	Current
Targeted Emp Areas	Current

Employers Beware! **Revised Form I-9**

In 1996, Congress passed the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act (IIRIRA) which reduced the number of documents employers may accept from newly hired employees during the employment eligibility verification process. Late in 2007, USCIS has revised the Employment Eligibility Verification Form, I-9, to comply with the Act.

Key to the revision is the removal of five documents for proof of both identity and employment eligibility: Certificate of U.S. Citizenship (Form N-560 or N-570); Certificate of Naturalization (Form N-550 or N-570); Alien Registration Receipt Card (Form I-151); the unexpired Reentry Permit (Form I-327); and the unexpired Refugee Travel Document (Form I-571). All five forms lack sufficient features to deter counterfeiting, tampering, and fraud.

The revised List of Acceptable Documents now includes: U.S. passport (expired or unexpired); Permanent Resident Card (Form I-551); unexpired foreign passport with a temporary I-551 stamp; unexpired

Employment Authorization Document with photograph (Form I-766, I-688A, or I-688B); and unexpired foreign passport with an unexpired Arrival-Departure Record (Form I-94) for nonimmigrant aliens authorized to work for a specific employer.

As of November 7, the Form I-9 with a revision date of June 5, 2007 is the only version of the form that is valid for use.