

H-1B Cap Update

As of November 27, 2009, there are approximately 6,100 H-1B quota numbers available for the current fiscal year (which runs from October 1, 2009 to September 30, 2010).

At the beginning of each fiscal year, CIS is authorized to issue 85,000 H-1B approvals (20,000 of those are reserved for graduates with US advanced degrees; the remaining 65,000 are for individuals with a bachelors degree or higher from the US or abroad). The 20,000 "advanced degree" quota has already been exhausted. There are 6,100 remaining from the 65,000 quota. However, the remaining 6,100 are available to **ANY** applicants with a degree (including US advanced degree holders).

Recall that, only a month ago, the CIS had 12,200 H-1B quota numbers available. December graduations from universities should quickly reduce the remaining number of available H-1Bs.

(Note that, each year, the H-1B quota is further reduced by 6,800 H-1Bs earmarked for citizens of Chile and Singapore. However, Chile/Singapore H-1Bs that go unused are added back into the general quota. CIS is uncertain at this time how many of these have been used, but historically very few are taken. Therefore, most of the Chile/Singapore H-1Bs will be available for general use.)