

Update on Availability of Employment-Based Green Card Numbers

July 2, 2007

As you may be aware, the Department of State's (DOS) Visa Bulletin for July made all Employment-Based permanent residence categories current -- meaning that everyone with an approved Labor Certification and/or Immigrant Petition could file for Adjustment of Status (the "green card application") at any time during the month of July. In addition, the July Visa Bulletin stated that green card numbers should remain current for August, then retrogress for Chinese and Indian nationals in September, and finally retrogress for all nationalities as soon as October.

However, just today, DOS announced that no employment based permanent residence numbers are available in any employment-based category. In response, U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services (USCIS) announced that, beginning today, it will reject and return all employment-based green card applications it receives until DOS releases more employment-based permanent residence numbers. DOS advises that more green card numbers will be made available at the start of the new fiscal year in October 2007.

We will continue to post updates on this developing situation on our website as details become available.