

March 2014

Reminder: H-1Bs Expected to be Exhausted Quickly



The annual H-1B quota or "cap" will likely be met during the first week of April. Employers are encouraged to initiate the preparation of H-1B petitions on behalf of their employees now to ensure that their H-1B candidates will have a chance of being included in the annual quota.

The H-1B is the work visa most commonly used by employers to hire highly skilled foreign workers. The H-1B program is used to employ foreign workers in professional positions, e.g., architects, engineers, scientists, and computer programmers, which require at least a bachelor's degree or its equivalent. There are 65,000 H-1B visas available each fiscal year, which includes 6,800 for nationals of Chile and Singapore pursuant to U.S. Trade Agreements with these countries. An additional 20,000 H-1B visas are available to foreign workers who possess a master's degree or higher from a U.S. university. H-1B petitions submitted for the annual quota have a starting validity date of October 1, 2014, the start of the fiscal year, and USCIS will begin accepting applications on April 1, 2014.

We will continue to watch the H-1B cap news carefully. Please feel free to reach out to your Pryor Cashman attorney with any questions.

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