

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE ANNOUNCES TEMPORARY UNAVAILABILITY OF IMMIGRANT VISA NUMBERS UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT-BASED, THIRD (EB-3) AND OTHER WORKER PREFERENCE CATEGORIES

Each month the U.S. Department of State (DOS) publishes the [Monthly Visa Bulletin](#), reporting current immigrant visa availability under the annual quota system for U.S. immigration. Today the DOS published the May 2009 Visa Bulletin, reporting temporary unavailability of immigrant visas under the Employment-Based, Third (EB-3) and Other Worker preference categories for all countries of birth. The EB-1 preference category remains open for all countries of birth, and the EB-2 preference category remains open for all countries of birth except India and China, which have “cut-off dates” of February 15, 2004, and February 15, 2005, respectively. Additionally, immigrant visa availability has reopened for certain religious workers and investors under pilot programs recently extended by Congress.

For more information on any of these employment-based classifications, or to initiate the permanent residency process and establish a priority date for a foreign national employee, contact your Foster Quan immigration attorney. Your Foster Quan immigration attorney will be able to assist you by developing a case-specific strategy for pursuit of permanent residency under an appropriate employment-based category for your company’s employees. As always, we will continue to monitor changes in immigrant visa availability and will make further information available in future Immigration Updates® and on our website at www.fosterquan.com.