



H-1B CAP – ROUGHLY HALF OF H-1B NUMBERS USED FOR FY-2013

U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services (CIS) has announced that, as of April 27, 2012, the CIS had received 29,200 H-1B petitions counted under the 65,000 regular H-1B cap, and 12,300 H-1B petitions counted under the 20,000 H-1B U.S. Advanced Degree Exempt (Master's or higher degree) cap. ***Enough H-1B petitions have been received by the CIS to exhaust just under half of the total H-1B numbers available for FY-2013 (October 1, 2012 – September 30, 2013).*** These numbers reflect significantly greater demand under the FY-2013 H-1B quota than under the FY-2012 H-1B quota for the same time frame.

As Spring Semester graduates receive their diplomas in May and are able to provide their diplomas as evidence of their qualification for an H-1B petition, another spike in H-1B petition filings can be expected by the end of this month. FosterQuan recommends identifying all H-1B candidates as quickly as possible in order to proceed with H-1B petition filings while H-1B visa numbers are still available under the FY-2013 quota. Any new H-1B petitions which are not received prior to exhaustion of the FY-2013 quota must be filed next year, for an October 1, 2013 H-1B employment start date.

To initiate a new H-1B petition process, or for assistance in evaluating the qualifications of a petition H-1B candidate, contact your FosterQuan immigration attorney. As always, FosterQuan will continue to monitor the rate of H-1B usage under the annual H-1B quota system and will make future updates available via the [FosterQuan website](#) and in future Immigration Update bulletins.