



U.S. GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN WILL LIKELY END SOON

On Wednesday, October 16th, the U.S. Senate reached a deal that would end the Government shutdown and avoid a default on U.S. debt. The compromise would fund the Government through January 15th, and raise the U.S. debt ceiling until February 7th in order to avoid a first-ever default on U.S. debt payments. While Senate passage is expected, passage by the U.S. House of Representatives is less certain. It is likely that Senate Democrats will follow the lead of House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-California) and approve the temporary measure soon.

When the shutdown ends, employers will again be able to file Labor Condition Applications (LCAs) and PERM Labor Certification Applications with the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL). The DOL website for filing LCAs and PERM applications has been inoperable since shortly after the Government shutdown began. Each day the site has been down, LCA filings and PERM applications have been delayed, and a front-log of cases has accumulated for filing as soon as the website becomes available. As a result, an end to the Government shutdown likely will not bring an immediate end to the delays in H-1B filings, and employers may experience slightly longer PERM adjudication times over the coming weeks.

For more information on initiating an H-1B petition or E-3 petition to be ready for filing as soon as possible following the end of the shutdown, contact your FosterQuan immigration attorney. When further information becomes available regarding the Government shutdown, we will provide additional updates via [our firm's website](#) and in future Immigration Update® email bulletins.