



U.S. GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN ENDS

In the early hours of the morning on Thursday, October 17th, the Government shutdown ended following a last-minute compromise that sent a bill to the President to fund the Government through January 15th and raise the debt ceiling until February 7th. President Obama signed the bill into law, paving the way for nonessential Federal Government employees to return to work.

With the shutdown officially over, Administration officials have not offered any estimate on the time frame it will take for Government operations to return to normal. As of this writing, the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) websites for filing Labor Condition Applications (LCAs) and PERM Labor Certification Applications remained inoperable, though both websites should return to full operation soon. The 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.

To ensure your company is ready to file urgent cases as soon as possible after the DOL LCA and PERM filing websites reopen, contact your FosterQuan immigration attorney. When further information becomes available regarding the availability of these websites for filing LCA and PERM Applications, we will provide additional updates via [our firm's website](#) and in future Immigration Update® email bulletins.