
**IDENTIFY H-1B CANDIDATES AND INITIATE NEW H-1B PETITIONS
NOW;**

Petitions Must Be Filed March 31st, for April 1st Receipt by CIS

Beginning April 1, 2009, U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services (CIS) will accept H-1B nonimmigrant visa petitions seeking allocation of Fiscal Year 2010 (October 1, 2009 through September 30, 2010) H-1B numbers. H-1B petitions may be filed on behalf of beneficiaries qualified for employment in a "Specialty Occupation," one that ordinarily requires at least a Bachelors Degree or its equivalent. Individuals who do not hold a Bachelors Degree may still qualify for H-1B status based on a career of progressively-responsible employment experience.

Because the annual H-1B Quota is expected to be exhausted early, employers should identify H-1B candidates and initiate new H-1B petition filings now, for filing March 31, 2009, and receipt by CIS on April 1, 2009. F-1 Students, L-1B nonimmigrants, TN nonimmigrants, and other nonimmigrants who may wish to pursue U.S. permanent residency are likely candidates for H-1B classification. For [more information](#) on the H-1B quota and the pursuit of H-1B classification for F-1 Students and TN and L-1B nonimmigrants, please visit our firm's website.

In order to maximize the opportunity to obtain one of the limited H-1B numbers for Fiscal Year 2010, and to avoid a potential gap in employment authorization, *employers are encouraged immediately to identify those employees for whom H-1B petitions will be required and to prepare for filing H-1B petitions on March 31, 2009.* Contact your Foster Quan immigration attorney now for assistance in evaluating candidate eligibility, developing an appropriate case strategy, and preparing the necessary documents for filing an H-1B petition on March 31, 2009.