

## **USCIS Updates Progress Toward H-1B Cap**

**USCIS has received approximately 45,700 H-1B petitions toward the H-1B cap for FY 2010.**

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced that as of May 22, 2009, it has received approximately 45,700 H-1B petitions toward the congressionally mandated 65,000 H-1B cap for the fiscal year (FY) 2010 program. The agency continues to accept petitions subject to the general cap. The previous count as of May 18, 2009 was 45,500 so usage has slowed considerably. If H-1B filings continue at such a low rate there will be H-1B visas available into 2010.

Additionally, the agency said it has received approximately 20,000 petitions for those with advanced degrees; however, it continues to accept advanced degree petitions "since experience has shown that not all petitions received are approvable." Congress mandated that the first 20,000 of these types of petitions are exempt from any fiscal year cap on available H-1B visas.