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**INITIATE NEW H-1B PETITIONS NOW FOR FILING APRIL 1<sup>ST</sup>**

In less than two months U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services (CIS) will begin accepting new H-1B petitions filed under the Fiscal Year 2015 (October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2015) H-1B quota. No more than 85,000 new H-1B visa numbers, which include 20,000 Master's exempt numbers, are available for the fiscal year. The annual quota will likely be reached in the first week that new petitions are accepted, and a lottery will be applied to select petitions that will be allocated an H-1B number. Because of the volume of filings anticipated, employers should initiate all new H-1B petitions now for filing and receipt by U.S. CIS on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

**File April 1<sup>st</sup> for F-1 Students, TN Professionals, and L-1B Specialized Knowledge Professionals**

Employers should evaluate their current workforce and consider proceeding now with H-1B petitions for qualifying F-1 students and TN and L-1B professionals who will be employed long-term with the company. Because more petitions are expected than visa numbers are available, the CIS will implement a "lottery" to award the visa numbers. Petitions that do not receive an H-1B visa this year may file again next year. By filing in the earliest year possible, employers can increase their odds of getting H-1B visa numbers for existing employees, even if they have several months or even multiple years remaining of their current employment eligibility.

**Initiate New Cases Now**

For additional information and answers to [frequently asked questions](#), please visit the [FosterQuan website](#). To initiate a new H-1B petition for April 1<sup>st</sup> filing, contact your FosterQuan immigration attorney now. Your FosterQuan attorney will assist you in evaluating eligibility and will provide case-specific checklists which may be applicable on a case-by-case basis.