



Welcome to our Newsletter!

November 2022

During this holiday season, we continue to be grateful for our clients and colleagues and wish you all good health and happiness. In this month's newsletter we discuss the December visa bulletin, traveling internationally during the holiday season, and the extension of temporary protected status for 6 countries.

DECEMBER VISA BULLETIN

Earlier this month, the U.S. Department of State released the December visa bulletin and the USCIS indicated that it will use the "Dates of Filing" chart in December for employment-based applications to adjust status to permanent resident. Here is a summary of the December visa bulletin:

- EB-2 Dates for Filing cutoff date is December 1, 2022, except for India which remains at May 1, 2012, and China at July 8, 2019.
- EB-2 India Final Action Dates retrogress by more than 6 months to October 8, 2011; China remains the same at June 8, 2019.
- EB-3 India Dates for Filing moves forward by one month to August 1, 2012, and the Final Action Date moves forward by about 2 months to June 15, 2012.
- EB-3 China Dates for Filing moves ahead to September 1, 2018, and the Final Action date advances by 6 weeks to August 1, 2018.

NOTE: It is likely that EB-1 China and India will retrogress in the coming months. But for now, all countries for EB-1 remain current. And it is likely to see further retrogression in EB-2 India.

If you have any questions regarding your own priority date, please contact Trow & Rahal.

TRAVEL INTERNATIONALLY DURING HOLIDAY SEASON

Nonimmigrants traveling internationally during the holiday season who need a visa should be aware of factors that could impact their travel including:

- holiday closures at U.S. Consulates as well as reduced operations may cause delays in visa issuance if a visa is needed before returning to the United States,
- COVID-19 policies that continue to evolve in many countries around the world,
- updated U.S. vaccination requirements, and
- administrative processing for visa applications.

Please note that there appears to be an increase in the number of visa applications at US Consulates that are put into administrative processing which means that the issuance of the visas is delayed for further background checks. When this happens, visas can be delayed for days, weeks, months or even longer and the U.S. Department of State does not provide any information as to the reasons why or how long it will take to issue the visa.

Please look at country specific information before traveling including visa wait times at the U.S. Consulates that can be found [here](#).

TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS EXTENDED FOR 6 COUNTRIES

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) extends TPS status for foreign nationals already in the United States from the following countries: El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras, Nepal, Nicaragua, and Sudan. Extended TPS status includes extended work authorization.

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