



APRIL 2016 VISA BULLETIN SHOWS MODEST ADVANCEMENT FOR ALL CATEGORIES

The U.S. Department of State’s (DOS) recently published [Monthly Visa Bulletin for April 2016](#) reports modest advancement to the “final action cutoff date” for applicants in all employment-based categories experiencing a backlog. The largest progression in the “final action cutoff date” was by over two (2) months for EB-3 applicants born in China.

As a reminder, in [October 2015](#) the DOS began including two separate cutoff dates under backlogged categories. The “filing cutoff date” represents the cutoff date for filing new Applications to Adjust Status to Permanent Resident (green card) with U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services (CIS). The CIS reviews the DOS-published “filing cutoff dates” against the internal CIS backlog of applications and usage data and will not automatically accept the dates presented by the DOS. The CIS has indicated that applicants must use the DOS-published “final action dates” for April 2016.

The “final action cutoff dates” below represent the cutoff date for approval of pending applications.

Final Action Cutoff Dates

Preference		All Chargeability Areas Except Those Listed	CHINA-Mainland Born	INDIA	MEXICO	PHILIPPINES
1st	Final Action Cut-off Date	C	C	C	C	C
2nd	Final Action Cut-off Date	C	01SEP12 Forward by 1 month	08NOV08 Forward by 3 weeks	C	C
3rd	Final Action Cut-off Date	15FEB16 Forward by 6 weeks	15AUG13 Forward 2 ½ months	08AUG04 Forward by 3 weeks	15FEB16 Forward by 6 weeks	01MAY08 Forward by 6 weeks
Other Worker	Final Action Cut-off Date	15FEB16 Forward by 6 weeks	01MAR07 Forward 1 month	08AUG04 Forward by 3 weeks	15FEB16 Forward by 6 weeks	01MAY08 Forward by 6 weeks

* The “Final Action Cut-off Date” is the date traditionally published each month in the Visa Bulletin before the October 2015 Visa Bulletin.

As always, Foster will continue to monitor immigrant visa availability and the procedures that allow for filing Applications to Adjust Status to permanent resident and will provide additional information in future Immigration Updates[®] and on our firm’s website at www.fosterglobal.com.