

## **JUNE 2016 VISA BULLETIN ANNOUNCES SIGNIFICANT RETROGRESSION FOR INDIA AND CHINA.**

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The Department of State's [June 2016 Visa Bulletin](#) has announced major retrogression in the Final Action cut-off dates for India and China.

Specifically, in June 2016, India EB-2 Final Action cut-off date will retrogress to October 1, 2004, for the final issuance of immigrant visas. The India EB-2 Final Action cut-off date stood at November 22, 2008, in the [May 2016 visa bulletin](#). Thus, India EB-2 Final Action cut-off date will retrogress by more than four (4) years in June 2016. India EB-3 will continue to move at the snail's pace. The Final Action cut-off date for EB-3 India will move from September 1, 2004 to September 22, 2004.

Similar to India, EB-2 Final Action cut-off for China will retrogress by 20 months to January 1<sup>st</sup> 2010 in June 2016. Like EB-2, in June 2016, EB-3 China Final Action cut-off will also retrogress from current August 15, 2013, to January 1, 2010.

The DOS has cited "*extremely high levels of Employment-based demand for adjustment of status cases filed with USCIS during past two (2) months*" as the reason for retrogression of the EB-2 preference Final Action cut-off dates for India and China.

The June 2016 Visa Bulletin does not project a bullish forward movement in the immediate future for both India and China EB-2 and EB-3 preference categories. EB-2 India Final Action cut-off date is expected to advance slowly, *at a pace consistent with that of the India EB-3 preference cut-off date*, during the last three (3) months of the fiscal year. The projection is much worse for the Chinese nationals as the retrogressed Final Action cut-off is not likely to advance either in the EB-2 or EB-3 category.

Like the EB-2 preference category, Final Action cut-off date for the EB-4 category for both India and China will also retrogress in June 2016. India EB-4 Final Action cut-off will backward from present July 22, 2003, to January 1, 2001. Likewise, China EB-4 will retrogress from July 22, 2003, to January 1, 2003. While DOS is not in a position to project whether or not the China EB-4 will advance until the end of current fiscal year, it is almost certain that India EB-4 will not advance during the last quarter.

For the reference of readers, included below is the Final Action Date Chart per the June 2016 visa bulletin for the employment-based preference cases and family-sponsored preference cases.

- **APPLICATION FINAL ACTION DATES FOR EMPLOYMENT-BASED PREFERENCE CASES**

<b>Employment- based</b>	<b>All Chargeability Areas Except Those Listed</b>	<b>CHINA-mainland born</b>	<b>EL SALVADOR GUATEMALA HONDURAS</b>	<b>INDIA</b>	<b>MEXICO</b>	<b>PHILIPPINES</b>
1st	C	C	c	C	C	C
2nd	C	01JAN10	C	01OCT04	C	C
3rd	15FEB16	01JAN10	15FEB16	22SEP04	15FEB16	01NOV08
Other Workers	15FEB16	22APR07	15FEB16	22SEP04	15FEB16	01NOV08
4th	C	C	01JAN10	C	C	C
Certain Religious Workers	C	C	01JAN10	C	C	C
5th Non-Regional Center (C5 and T5)	C	15FEB14	C	C	C	C
5th Regional Center (I5 and R5)	C	15FEB14	C	C	C	C

• **APPLICATION FINAL ACTION DATES FOR FAMILY-SPONSORED PREFERENCE CASES**

<b>Family-Sponsored</b>	<b>All Chargeability Areas Except Those Listed</b>	<b>CHINA-mainland born</b>	<b>INDIA</b>	<b>MEXICO</b>	<b>PHILIPPINES</b>
F1	15JAN09	15JAN09	15JAN09	22FEB95	22DEC04
F2A	08NOV14	08NOV14	08NOV14	01SEP14	08NOV14
F2B	22OCT09	22OCT09	22OCT09	08SEP95	01JUN05
F3	01DEC04	01DEC04	01DEC04	22OCT94	01FEB94
F4	08AUG03	01JAN03	01JAN01	15APR97	01DEC92