

GMS Flash Alert

Immigration Edition

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United States - Second H-1B Lottery Conducted for FY2021

On August 14, 2020, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) began contacting employers via email about registrations that were selected in a second H-1B cap lottery that was recently conducted for the 2021 fiscal year (FY). Selection notices were also posted to employers' H-1B cap registration systems.

Additional H-1B registrations were selected because the initial filing period of April 1, 2020 to June 30, 2020 did not yield enough H-1B cap petitions to meet the annual quota of 85,000. USCIS has not yet confirmed the number of registrations selected in the second lottery.

Petitions for newly selected H-1B registrations may be filed with USCIS between August 17, 2020 and November 16, 2020.

WHY THIS MATTERS

Employers who submitted registrations that were not selected in the first lottery for the FY2021 H-1B cap should be aware that these registrations may be chosen in the second lottery. No action is required for previously unselected registrations to be eligible for the second draw.

The additional chance to be selected in the FY2021 H-1B cap lottery is good news for thousands of potential H-1B beneficiaries.

KPMG NOTE

Employers with newly selected registrations are encouraged to work with immigration counsel to ensure that H-1B cap petitions are filed within the deadline and to the correct USCIS Service Center. Petitioners are also encouraged to file new H-1B cap petitions with USCIS before the filing fee increases from \$460 to \$555 on October 2, 2020. See GMS Flash Alert 2020-345 (August 7, 2020) for additional details regarding the upcoming fee changes.

KPMG Law LLP will track this matter closely. We will keep readers of GMS *Flash Alert* informed of any new developments as and when they occur.

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Contact us

For additional information or assistance, please contact your local GMS or People Services professional* or one of the following professionals with the KPMG International member firm in Canada:



Beth Nanton Partner/U.S. Immigration, Practice Leader KPMG Law LLP – Tax + Immigration, Canada Tel. +1 604-691-3316 bnanton@kpmq.ca



Chelsea Hsieh Senior Manager/Attorney, U.S. Immigration, KPMG Law LLP - Tax + Immigration, Canada Tel. +1 416-943-7874 chelseahsieh@kpmg.ca

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