



GMS Flash Alert

Immigration Edition

2021-121 | April 26, 2021



United States - May 2021 Visa Bulletin, "Chats with Charlie"

On April 20, 2021, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) confirmed that it will accept employment-based Forms I-485, *Applications to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status*, next month according to the *Visa Bulletin's* "Final Action Dates" chart.¹ The U.S. Department of State released the May 2021 *Visa Bulletin* on April 20, 2021.²

Also, the U.S. State Department recently launched "Chats with Charlie" on YouTube to discuss the monthly *Visa Bulletin*.³ Charlie Oppenheim is Chief of the Visa Control and Reporting Division of the U.S. Department of State. He has historically made predictions about movement in priority date cut-offs. Mr. Oppenheim hosted a live chat related to the May 2021 *Visa Bulletin* on April 22, 2021. He will continue to host discussions regarding the *Visa Bulletin* on a monthly basis.

WHY THIS MATTERS

Each month, the U.S. Department of State releases a *Visa Bulletin* indicating the availability of statutorily limited visas for prospective immigrants.⁴ The cut-off dates reflected in the *Visa Bulletin*, coupled with USCIS' confirmation of which chart will apply, dictate eligibility to file a Form I-485 in a given month. In addition, the Final Action Dates chart in the applicable *Visa Bulletin* determines whether pending I-485 applications may be approved.

The live chats hosted by Charlie Oppenheim could be a welcome opportunity for visa applicants and employers to ask general questions pertaining to the *Visa Bulletin* and anticipated movement in each visa category. Questions may be emailed to VisaBulletin@state.gov in advance of each live session. Questions may also be asked via the YouTube live chat feature and will be answered in real-time. The Department of State has advised that questions about policy or case-specific issues will not be addressed by Mr. Oppenheim.

Employment-Based Preference Categories

The cut-off dates under the Final Action Dates chart for employment-based immigrant visas under the May 2021 *Visa Bulletin* will be as follows:

EB-1: All countries of chargeability will be current.

EB-2: All countries of chargeability except India and the People's Republic of China ("China") will remain current. China's cut-off date will advance to December 1, 2016. India's cut-off date will move ahead to August 1, 2010.

EB-3 Professionals & Skilled Workers: All countries of chargeability except India and China will remain current. China will advance to May 15, 2018, and India will move forward to February 1, 2011.

EB-3 Other Workers: All countries of chargeability except for India and China will remain current. China's cut-off date for next month is August 1, 2009, while the cut-off date for India is February 1, 2011.

EB-4: El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras will advance to September 1, 2018. Mexico will advance to March 15, 2019. All other countries of chargeability will remain current.

EB-5: All countries of chargeability, except China and Vietnam, will remain current. China's cut-off date will remain at August 15, 2015, while Vietnam's will advance to February 15, 2018.

FOOTNOTES:

- 1 See the "[Adjustment of Status Filing Charts from the Visa Bulletin](#)" page on the USCIS website.
- 2 See the U.S. Department of State [website](#).
- 3 See: <https://www.youtube.com/user/TravelGov> .
- 4 For our prior coverage of the April 2021 *Visa Bulletin*, read *GMS Flash Alert 2021-092* (24 March 2021).

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Contact us

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