



GMS Flash Alert

Immigration Edition

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United States – December 2021 Visa Bulletin

The U.S. Department of State released the December 2021 *Visa Bulletin*.¹ The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has also confirmed that it will accept employment-based Form I-485, *Applications to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status*, next month according to the *Visa Bulletin's* "Dates of Filing" chart.²

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.³ 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 application in a given month. In addition, the Final Action Dates chart in the applicable *Visa Bulletin* determines whether a pending Form I-485 or immigrant visa application may be approved.

Employment-Based Preference Category Cut-Off Dates

The cut-off dates on the employment-based Final Action Dates chart in the December 2021 *Visa Bulletin* reflect progression in the EB-2 categories for the People's Republic of China ("China") and India. The Final Action Dates are as follows:

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

EB-2: All countries of chargeability except India and China will remain current. China's cut-off date will progress to January 1, 2019, and India's cut-off date will progress to May 1, 2012.

EB-3 Professionals and Skilled Workers: All countries of chargeability except India and China will remain current. China's cut-off date will remain at March 22, 2018, and India's cut-off date will remain at January 15, 2012.

EB-3 Other Workers: All countries of chargeability except India and China will remain current. China's cut-off date will progress to March 1, 2012, and India's cut-off date will remain at January 15, 2012.

EB-4: The cut-off date for El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras will remain at March 15, 2019. Mexico's cut-off date will remain at March 1, 2020. All other countries of chargeability will continue to be current in December.

EB-5: The Non-Regional Center program will be current for all countries. The Regional Center program has expired. If the Regional Center program is reauthorized next month, then the cut-off dates will mirror those of the Non-Regional Center program.

The cut-off dates per the Dates for Filing chart in the December 2021 *Visa Bulletin* are below:

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

EB-2: All countries of chargeability except India and China will be current. China's cut-off date will progress to April 1, 2019, and India's cut-off date will progress to July 8, 2013.

EB-3 Professionals and Skilled Workers: All countries of chargeability except India and China will be current. China's cut-off date will remain at April 1, 2018, and India's cut-off date will remain at January 22, 2012.

EB-3 Other Workers: All countries of chargeability except India and China will remain current. China's cut-off date will progress to May 1, 2015 and India's cut-off date will remain at January 12, 2012.

EB-4: The cut-off date for El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras will remain at May 15, 2019. All other countries of chargeability will be current in December.

EB-5: The Non-Regional Center program will be current for all countries. The Regional Center program will be current for all countries except China. China's cut-off date will be December 15, 2015.

* * * *

FOOTNOTES:

1. U.S. Department of State [website](#).
2. See the "[Adjustment of Status Filing Charts from the Visa Bulletin](#)" page on the USCIS website.
3. For our prior coverage of the November 2021 *Visa Bulletin*, read [GMS Flash Alert 2021-264](#) (October 20, 2021).

Contact us

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