

H-2B Temporary Nonagricultural Visa Program

Case Processing Times for Public Disclosure

Posted March 21, 2016

H-2B Processing Times *(updated as of close of business 3/18/2016)*

I. Issuance of Initial Notices of Acceptance (NOA) or Deficiency (NOD)

| Case Receipt Week | Total Cases Submitted* | Total Cases Issued First NOA or NOD | Percent Receipt Week Completed |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| MOST RECENT WEEK COMPLETED | | | |
| Dec 27 – Jan 2 | 643 | 643 | 100% |
| Jan 3 – Jan 9 | 1,057 | 1,057 | 100% |
| Jan 10 - Jan 16 | 550 | 550 | 100% |
| CURRENT PROCESSING STATUS | | | |
| Jan 17 - Jan 23 | 329 | 290 | 88% |
| A LOOK AT WHAT'S AHEAD – NEXT 4 WEEKS | | | |
| Jan 24 - Jan 30 | 209 | N/A | N/A |
| Jan 31 - Feb 6 | 318 | N/A | N/A |
| Feb 7 - Feb 13 | 246 | N/A | N/A |
| Feb 14 – Feb 20 | 207 | N/A | N/A |

** Figures may change slightly because applications submitted, then withdrawn are excluded*

II. Average Case Processing Times (*measured in calendar days*)

| Processing Activity | Current Status |
|---|------------------|
| Average Number of Days to Process Cases with No Deficiencies (cumulative over the last 2 weeks) | 67 calendar days |
| Average Number of Days to Process Cases with Deficiencies (cumulative over the last 2 weeks) | 73 calendar days |

These tables are intended to help employers understand the timeframes for processing H-2B applications for temporary labor certification, which will be updated on a weekly basis. The tables indicate the week from which employer applications initially received at the Chicago NPC are currently being considered and either issued a Notice of Acceptance (NOA) or a Notice of Deficiency (NOD), as well as the percentage of all cases received during that week that have been processed to the NOA or NOD stage. Therefore, as soon as all initial decisions for cases received during the calendar week are issued (i.e., 100% complete), the Chicago NPC will move to the next calendar week of cases received and the chart will be updated accordingly.

Additionally, where an employer initially receives a NOA from the Chicago NPC (i.e., no deficiencies), we are showing the average number of calendar days it takes to process cases with no deficiencies, as measured from the case receipt date to the date a final determination is issued. Although each employer application and recruitment effort is unique, we believe that displaying a cumulative average based on the last two weeks of all cases processed to a final determination will provide employers with information that can help them plan for their workforce needs in relation to the expected start date of work. We are displaying similar information related to the average number of days to process cases with deficiencies (i.e., employer application was issued an initial NOD).

IMPORTANT NOTE: The actual processing times of each employer H-2B application may vary from the average depending on the material facts and circumstances. We are only reporting the average or “typical” processing time for H-2B applications over the most recent two-week period.