

H-2B Temporary Nonagricultural Visa Program

Case Processing Times for Public Disclosure

Posted March 29, 2016

H-2B Processing Times (updated as of close of business 3/28/2016)

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%
Jan 17 - Jan 23	325	325	100%
Jan 24 - Jan 30	200	200	100%
CURRENT PROCESSING STATUS			
Jan 31 - Feb 6	317	73	23%
A LOOK AT WHAT'S AHEAD – NEXT 4 WEEKS			
Feb 7 - Feb 13	244	N/A	N/A
Feb 14 – Feb 20	201	N/A	N/A
Feb 21 – Feb 27	103	N/A	N/A
Feb 28 - Mar 5	134	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* Figures may change slightly because applications submitted, then withdrawn are excluded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)	71 calendar days
Average Number of Days to Process Cases with Deficiencies (cumulative over the last 2 weeks)	77 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.