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USCIS Update

USCIS UPDATES COUNT OF FY 2008 U.S.-EARNED MASTERS DEGREE H-1B CAP FILINGS

WASHINGTON—U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced today an updated number of filings for H-1B petitions filed on behalf of aliens with U.S.-earned Masters or higher degrees.

As of April 18, 2007, USCIS had received approximately 18,000 H-1B petitions for aliens with advanced degrees. Congress mandated that the first 20,000 of these types of petitions are exempt from any fiscal year cap on available H-1B visas.

USCIS will provide regular updates as the processing of FY 2008 H-1B cap-exempt cases continues.

H-1B in General: U.S. businesses use the H-1B program to employ foreign workers in specialty occupations that require theoretical or technical expertise in fields, such as scientists, engineers or computer programmers. As part of the H-1B program, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Department of Labor (DOL) require U.S. employers to meet specific labor conditions to ensure that American workers are not adversely impacted, while DOL's Wage and Hour Division safeguards the treatment and compensation of H-1B workers.