



## U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

# USCIS Will Accept H-1B Petitions for Fiscal Year 2018 Beginning April 3

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WASHINGTON — U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services will begin accepting H-1B petitions subject to the fiscal year 2018 cap on April 3, 2017. All cap-subject H-1B petitions filed before April 3, 2017, for the FY 2018 cap will be rejected.

The [H-1B program](#) allows companies in the United States to temporarily employ foreign workers in occupations that require the application of a body of highly specialized knowledge and a bachelor's degree or higher in the specific specialty, or its equivalent. H-1B specialty occupations may include fields such as science, engineering and information technology.

Congress set a cap of 65,000 H-1B visas per fiscal year. An advanced degree exemption from the H-1B cap is available for 20,000 beneficiaries who have earned a U.S. master's degree or higher. The agency will monitor the number of petitions received and notify the public when the H-1B cap has been met.

USCIS [recently announced](#) a temporary suspension of premium processing for all H-1B petitions starting April 3 for up to six months. While H-1B premium processing is suspended, petitioners will not be able to file [Form I-907, Request for Premium Processing Service](#), for a [Form I-129, Petition for a Nonimmigrant Worker](#) which requests the H-1B nonimmigrant classification. While premium processing is suspended any Form I-907 filed with an H-1B petition will be rejected. If the petitioner submits one combined check for both the Form I-907 and Form I-129 H-1B fees, both forms will be rejected.

H-1B petitioners must follow all statutory and regulatory requirements as they prepare petitions to avoid delays in processing and possible requests for evidence. The [filing fee](#) for Form I-129 has increased to \$460, and petitioners no longer have 14 days to correct a dishonored payment. If any fee payments are not honored by the bank or financial institution, USCIS will reject the entire H-1B petition without the option for the petitioner to correct it.

[Form M-735, Optional Checklist for Form I-129 H-1B Filings \(PDF, 278 KB\)](#), provides detailed information on how to complete and submit an FY 2018 H-1B petition.

For more information on the H-1B nonimmigrant visa program and current Form I-129 processing times, visit the [H-1B FY 2018 Cap Season Web page](#) or call the National Customer Service Center at 800-375-5283 or 800-767-1833 (TDD for the hearing impaired). To subscribe to the H-1B Cap Season email updates go to the [H1B FY 2018 Cap Season Web page](#).

For more information on USCIS and its programs, please visit [uscis.gov](http://uscis.gov) or follow us on Twitter ([@uscis](https://twitter.com/uscis)), YouTube ([/uscis](https://www.youtube.com/uscis)), and Facebook([/uscis](https://www.facebook.com/uscis)).

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