



Foreign Labor Certification

Helping U.S. employers fill jobs while protecting U.S. and foreign workers

News & Updates

[Archives](#)

Calendar Year 2020

- **January 6, 2020. OFLC Conducts Randomization Process on H-2B Applications Requesting an April 1, 2020, Work Start Date**

The Office of Foreign Labor Certification has completed the [randomization process](#) to randomly assign all H-2B applications submitted during the initial three-day filing window, January 2-4, 2020, requesting an April 1, 2020, work start date for the second half of the Fiscal Year 2020 H-2B statutory visa cap.

OFLC received a total of 5,677 H-2B applications requesting 99,362 worker positions during this filing period.

OFLC will be providing written notification to employers (and the employer's authorized attorney or agent) with their H-2B Assignment Group. On January 8, 2020, OFLC will also publish on its website the list of the H-2B applications assigned to each Assignment Group.

- **January 4, 2020. OFLC Announces Number of H-2B Applications Filed in the Foreign Labor Application Gateway System During First Two Days of the Peak Filing Season**

During the first two days of the H-2B peak filing season, employers filed 5,509 applications in the Foreign Labor Application Gateway System requesting more than 96,319 worker positions with an April 1, 2020, or later, work start date.

The Office of Foreign Labor Certification (OFLC) will continue to accept H-2B applications during the three-day filing window, and plans to randomize all applications submitted on January 6, 2020. OFLC will use the [randomization procedures](#) published in the Federal Register on March 4, 2019, to randomize H-2B applications.

- **January 3, 2020. OFLC Announces Number of H-2B Applications Filed in the Foreign Labor Application Gateway System During First 24 Hours of the Peak Filing Season**

During the first 24 hours of the H-2B peak filing season, employers filed 4,930 applications in the Foreign Labor Application Gateway System requesting more than 87,298 worker positions with an April 1, 2020, or later, work start date.

The Office of Foreign Labor Certification (OFLC) will continue to accept H-2B applications during the three-day filing window, and plans to randomize all applications submitted on January 6, 2020. OFLC will use the [randomization procedures](#) published in the Federal Register on March 4, 2019, to randomize H-2B applications.

- **January 2, 2020. OFLC Issues Frequently Asked Questions Related to the H-2B Visa Cap for the First Half of Fiscal Year 2020 and Returning Temporary Labor Certifications**

The Office of Foreign Labor Certification (OFLC) has posted a set of frequently asked questions (FAQs) to address stakeholder questions concerning whether the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is accepting additional petitions for H-2B workers under the first half of fiscal year 2020 statutory limit, and the procedures employers can use to return a temporary labor certification issued by OFLC that they no longer need.

- [View the FAQs](#)

Calendar Year 2019

- **December 20, 2019. OFLC Issues Frequently Asked Questions and Filing Tips Covering Technical Issues with the FLAG System**

In collaboration with the Department's Office of the Chief Information Officer, the Office of Foreign Labor Certification (OFLC) published a set of technical frequently asked questions (FAQs) addressing several technical issues with the Foreign Labor Application Gateway (FLAG) System. These FAQs provide FLAG users with helpful tips and practices for preparing and submitting H-2B applications (Form ETA-9142B and appendices).

- [View the FLAG System Technical FAQs and Filing Tips](#)

- **December 19, 2019. New 2020 H-2A Monthly Adverse Effect Wage Rate (AEWR) for Herding or Production of Livestock on the Range**

The Department of Labor (DOL) has published a notice in the *Federal Register* announcing the new AEWR for herding or production of livestock on the range for the H-2A Program. The AEWR is the minimum wage rate DOL has determined must be offered and paid by employers to H-2A workers and workers in corresponding employment, so that the wages of similarly employed U.S. workers will not be adversely affected. The notice announces the new national monthly AEWR for herding or production of livestock on the range. To access the notice please click [here](#).

- **December 19, 2019. New 2020 H-2A Hourly Adverse Effect Wage Rates (AEWR) by State**