



U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

USCIS Reaches H-2B Cap for First Half of FY 2020

Release Date: Nov. 20, 2019

WASHINGTON—U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services has reached the congressionally mandated cap on H-2B visas for temporary nonagricultural workers for the first half of fiscal year 2020.

Nov. 15 was the final receipt date for new cap-subject H-2B worker petitions requesting an employment start date before April 1, 2020. USCIS will reject new cap-subject H-2B petitions received after Nov. 15 that request an employment start date before April 1, 2020.

USCIS continues to accept H-2B petitions that are exempt from the congressionally mandated cap. This includes the following types of petitions:

- Current H-2B workers in the U.S. petitioning to extend their stay and, if applicable, change the terms of their employment or change their employers;
- Fish roe processors, fish roe technicians, and/or supervisors of fish roe processing; and
- Workers performing labor or services in the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands and/or Guam from Nov. 28, 2009, until Dec. 31, 2029.

U.S. businesses use the [H-2B program](#) to employ foreign workers for temporary nonagricultural jobs. Currently, Congress has set the H-2B cap at 66,000 per fiscal year, with 33,000 for workers who begin employment in the first half of the fiscal year (Oct. 1 - March 31) and 33,000 (plus any unused numbers from the first half of the fiscal year) for workers who begin employment in the second half of the fiscal year (April 1 - Sept. 30).

For more information, H-2B petitioners can visit the [Cap Count for H-2B Nonimmigrants](#) page.

For more information on USCIS and our programs, please visit uscis.gov or follow us on Twitter ([@uscis](#)), Instagram ([/uscis](#)), YouTube ([/uscis](#)), Facebook ([/uscis](#)), and LinkedIn ([/uscis](#)).

Last Reviewed/Updated: 11/20/2019