

UPDATE ON YEAR 2005 H-1B USAGE AS OF AUGUST 18, 2004

September 9, 2004



by

Kristen A. Chang and David J. Long
Long, Chang & Associates, L.L.P.
4915 Piedmont Parkway, Suite 103
Jamestown, NC 27282
Phone: (336) 855-5700
www.longchangoonline.com

The USCIS cap for H-1Bs for year 2005 is 65,000. Since 6,800 H-1Bs are reserved for Chile and Singapore under special Free Trade Agreements, the actual number of H-1Bs available is 58,200. The USCIS announced on September 2, 2004 that, as of August 18, 2004, it has received 45,900 H-1B petitions that will count towards the 2005 cap. Unless new legislation is enacted which would increase the number of H-1B visas for the fiscal year, no H-1Bs can be issued for new employment until the beginning of the next fiscal year (October 1, 2005).

Kristen A. Chang and David J. Long are attorneys in the immigration law firm of Long, Chang & Associates, L.L.P. Ms. Chang and Mr. Long are members of the North Carolina State Bar and the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA). Mr. Long has been certified by the North Carolina State Bar as a Specialist in Immigration Law. They may be reached via telephone at (336) 855-5700 or via e-mail at info@longchangoonline.com

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