

**VISA RETROGRESSION IN EB-3 GREEN CARD  
CATEGORY EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY**



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.longchangonline.com](http://www.longchangonline.com)*

March 20, 2009 - The April 2009 Visa Bulletin, published by the U.S. Department of State on March 9, 2009, indicates that the cutoff date in the Employment-Based 3<sup>rd</sup> Preference (EB-3) “Worldwide” category for skilled workers and professionals is retrogressing (moving backwards) approximately 2 years. Effective March 9, 2009, the new cutoff date in the EB-3 “Worldwide” category for skilled workers and professionals is March 1, 2003 (Note: The cutoff date in the EB-3 category for skilled workers and professionals born in or “chargeable” to India is November 1, 2001). This means that foreign nationals in the EB-3 category for skilled workers and professionals with priority dates of March 1, 2003 or later will not be eligible for issuance of a green card or immigrant visa likely for several months beginning March 9, 2009. It is likely that there will not be much forward movement, if any, in the cutoff date for the EB-3 category until October 1, 2009 (at the earliest) when the new immigration fiscal year begins. Consequently, foreign nationals with pending I-485 applications with priority dates later than March 9, 2009 likely will not have their applications approved in the next several months and should keep this in mind so that they can file for an extension of their nonimmigrant visa status or Employment Authorization Document, as necessary. To view the April 2009 Visa Bulletin, visit [www.longchangonline.com](http://www.longchangonline.com) or click here: [http://travel.state.gov/visa/frvi/bulletin/bulletin\\_4438.html](http://travel.state.gov/visa/frvi/bulletin/bulletin_4438.html).

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*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). Ms. Chang is fluent in both the Korean and English languages. 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@longchangonline.com](mailto:info@longchangonline.com).*

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