



U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

When to File Your Adjustment of Status Application for Family-Sponsored or Employment-Based Preference Visas: April 2018

[Versión en español](#)

Are you seeking to adjust your status and become a U.S. permanent resident under a family-sponsored or employment-based preference immigrant visa? If you have not yet had a relative or employer file an immigrant visa petition on your behalf, please learn more about the [Adjustment of Status Filing Process](#). If you already have a petition filed or approved on your behalf, you may have to wait for an available visa in your category (if applicable) before you can file your [Form I-485, Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status](#). This page will help you determine when to file your adjustment of status application.

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- [About the Visa Bulletin](#)
- [New Visa Bulletin Charts](#)
- [Determining Visa Availability](#)

When to File

Use the Visa Bulletin charts below to determine when to file your adjustment of status application.

To use the charts:

1. Find your visa type in the first column (on the left) of the appropriate chart (Family-sponsored or Employment-based).
2. Stay in that row and move directly to the right to find the corresponding date under the country of your birth (as listed in the boldface columns across the top).
3. If the date on the chart is current (“C”), or your priority date is earlier than the date on the chart, you may file your adjustment of status application, if otherwise eligible to do so.
4. “U” means unauthorized; for example, numbers are not authorized for issuance.

Your priority date is generally the date when your relative or employer properly filed the immigrant visa petition on your behalf with USCIS. If a labor certification is required to be filed with your immigrant visa petition, the priority date is the date the labor certification application was accepted for processing by the Department of Labor.

April 2018

Dates for Filing Family-Sponsored Adjustment of Status Applications:

Family-Sponsored	All Chargeability Areas Except Those Listed	CHINA-mainland born	INDIA	MEXICO	PHILIPPINES
F1	01JAN12	01JAN12	01JAN12	15JAN98	01OCT07
F2A	22SEP17	22SEP17	22SEP17	22SEP17	22SEP17
F2B	01SEP11	01SEP11	01SEP11	01JAN97	01SEP07
F3	01SEP06	01SEP06	01SEP06	15DEC97	15JUN95
F4	08MAR05	08MAR05	22JUN04	08FEB98	01MAR95

Final Action Dates for Employment-Based Adjustment of Status Applications:

Employment-Based	All Chargeability Areas Except Those Listed	CHINA-mainland born	EL SALVADOR GUATEMALA HONDURAS	INDIA	MEXICO	PHILIPPINES
1st	C	01JAN12	C	01JAN12	C	C
2nd	C	01AUG14	C	22DEC08	C	C
3rd	C	01JUN15	C	01FEB08	C	01JAN17
Other Workers	C	01APR07	C	01FEB08	C	01JAN17
4th	C	C	15DEC15	C	08AUG16	C
Certain Religious Workers	U	U	U	U	U	U

Employment-Based	All Chargeability Areas Except Those Listed	CHINA-mainland born	EL SALVADOR GUATEMALA HONDURAS	INDIA	MEXICO	PHILIPPINES
5th Non-Regional Center (C5 and T5)	C	22JUL14	C	C	C	C
5th Regional Center (I5 and R5)	U	U	U	U	U	U

Adjusting Status to become a U.S. permanent resident?



1. Your relative or employer files an immigrant petition for you.



2. Determine your petition type:

a. Visas for immediate relative petitions (spouses of U.S. citizens, unmarried children under 21 of U.S. citizens, parents of U.S. Citizens) are unlimited and always available. You may file your Form I-485 at the same time your U.S. citizen relative files a Form I-130.

b. Visas for family-sponsored and employment-based preference petitions are limited. You will need to consult the U.S. Department of State (DOS) Visa Bulletin to see if you can file your Form I-485. In order to use the Visa Bulletin, you will need to know your **priority date**.

go forward



3. What's my priority Date?

This is the date your relative or employer filed an immigrant petition on your behalf.



The date the Department of Labor accepts a labor certification for processing (when applicable).



4. Find out if you can file your I-485: Check uscis.gov/visabulletininfo

It will explain whether you should use the **Application Final Action Dates** chart or **Dates for Filing Visa Applications** chart to determine when you can file.

To use the charts:

1.

Find your visa type in the first column (on the left) of the appropriate chart (Family-sponsored, Employment-based, or Diversity Visa).

2.

Stay in that row and move directly to the right to find the corresponding date under the country of your birth (as listed in the boldface columns across the top).

3.

If the date on the chart is current ("C") or your priority date is earlier than the date on the chart, you may file your adjustment of status application, if otherwise eligible to do so.



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About the Visa Bulletin

DOS publishes current immigrant visa availability information in a monthly [Visa Bulletin](#). The Visa Bulletin indicates when statutorily limited visas are available for issuance to prospective immigrants based on their individual priority date.

On Nov. 20, 2014, the Secretary of Homeland Security directed USCIS to work with DOS to:

- Ensure that all immigrant visas authorized by Congress are issued to eligible individuals when there is sufficient demand for such visas, and