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## 2017 H-1B Visas – Need to Begin Process Now

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Employers may first apply for Fiscal Year 2017 **H-1B** visas for individuals not currently in H-1B status on April 1, 2016 for a start date of October 1, 2016.

**United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)** received approximately 233,000 H-1B petitions during the first week applications were accepted for the Fiscal Year 2016 H-1B visa cap and conducted a random lottery to select the 85,000 petitions for the H-1B cap (65,000 for the general category and 20,000 for the US advanced degree category). We anticipate similar high demand again this year.

This H-1B cap limitation does not apply to extensions of H-1B status or those obtaining H-1B status to teach at colleges, universities, related nonprofit or government research organizations or J waiver physicians.

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