

9 FAM 42.51

Department control of numerical limitations

(TL:VISA-184; 01-22-1999)

(a) Centralized control.

(TL:VISA-184; 01-22-1999)

Centralized control of the numerical limitations on immigration specified in INA 201, 202, and 203 is established in the Department. The Department shall limit the number of immigrant visas that may be issued and the number of adjustments of status that may be granted to aliens subject to these numerical limitations to a number:

(1) Not to exceed 27 percent of the world-wide total made available under INA 203(a), (b), and (c) in any of the first three quarters of any fiscal year; and

(2) Not to exceed, in any month of a fiscal year, 10 percent of the world-wide total made available under INA 203(a), (b), and (c) plus any balance remaining from authorizations for preceding months in the same fiscal year.

[63 FR 48577, Sept. 11, 1998.]

(b) Allocation of numbers.

(TL:VISA-112; 5-26-95)

Within the foregoing limitations, the Department shall allocate immigrant visa numbers for use in connection with the issuance of immigrant visas and adjustments based on the chronological order of the priority dates of visa applicants classified under INA 203(a) and (b) reported by consular officers pursuant to section 42.55(b) and of applicants for adjustment of status as reported by officers of INS, taking into account the requirements of INA 202(e) in such allocations. In the case of applicants under INA 203(c), visa numbers shall be allocated within the limitations for each specified geographical region in the random order determined in accordance with sec. 42.33(c) of this Part.

[56 FR 15298, Mar. 31, 1994]

(c) Recaptured visa numbers.

(TL:VISA-101; 11-25-94)

An immigrant visa number shall be returned to the Department for reallocation within the fiscal year in which the visa was issued when:

(1) An immigrant having an immigrant visa is excluded from the United States and deported;

(2) An immigrant does not apply for admission to the United States before the expiration of the validity of the visa;

(3) An alien having a preference immigrant visa is found not to be a preference immigrant; or

(4) An immigrant visa is revoked pursuant to section 42.82.

[56 FR 51172, Oct. 10, 1991]

9 FAM 42.51 Related Statutory Provisions

INA 201

(TL:VISA-184; 01-22-1999)

Sec. 201 WORLDWIDE LEVEL OF IMMIGRATION

(a) IN GENERAL.—Exclusive of aliens described in subsection (b), aliens born in a foreign state or dependent area who may be issued immigrant visas or who may otherwise acquire the status of an alien lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence are limited to—

(1) family-sponsored immigrants described in section 203(a) (or who are admitted under section 211(a) on the basis of a prior issuance of a visa to their accompanying parent under section 203(a)) in a number not to exceed in any fiscal year the number specified in subsection (c) for that year, and not to exceed in any of the first 3 quarters of any fiscal year 27 percent of the worldwide level under such subsection for all of such fiscal year;

(2) employment-based immigrants described in section 203(b) (or who are admitted under section 211(a) on the basis of a prior issuance of a visa to their accompanying parent under section 203(b)), in a number not to exceed in any of the first 3 quarters of any fiscal year the number specified in subsection (d) for that year, and not to exceed in any of the first 3 quarters of any fiscal year 27 percent of the worldwide level under such subsection for all of such fiscal year; and

(3) for fiscal years beginning in fiscal year 1995, diversity immigrants described in section 203(c) (or who are admitted under section 211(a) on the basis of a prior issuance of a visa to their accompanying parent under section 203(c)) in a number not to exceed in any fiscal year the number specified in subsection (e) for that year, and not to exceed in any of the first 3 quarters of any fiscal year 27 percent of the worldwide level under such subsection for all of such fiscal year.

(b) ALIENS NOT SUBJECT TO DIRECT NUMERICAL LIMITATIONS.—Aliens described in this subsection, who are not subject to the worldwide levels or numerical limitations of subsection (a) are as follows:

(1)(A) Special immigrants described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of section 101(a)(27).

(B) Aliens who are admitted under section 207 or whose status is adjusted under section 209.

(C) Aliens whose status is adjusted to permanent residence under section 210, or 245A.

(D) Aliens whose removal is canceled under section 240A(a).

(E) Aliens provided permanent resident status under section 249.

(2)(A)(i) Immediate relatives. For purposes of this subsection, the term “immediate relatives” means the children, spouses and parents of a citizen of the United States, except that, in the case of parents, such citizens shall be at least 21 years of age. In the case of an alien who was the spouse of a citizen of the United States for at least two years at the time of the citizen’s death and was not legally separated from the citizen at the time of the citizen’s death, the alien (and each child of the alien) shall be considered, for the purposes of this subsection, to remain an immediate relative after the date of the citizen’s death but only if the spouse files a petition under section 204(a)(1)(A) within 2 years after such date and only until the date the spouse remarries.

(ii) Aliens admitted under section 211(a) on the basis of a prior issuance of a visa to their accompanying parent who is such an immediate relative.

(B) Aliens born to an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence during a temporary visit abroad.

(c) WORLDWIDE LEVEL OF FAMILY-SPONSORED IMMIGRANTS.—(1)(A)

The worldwide level of family-sponsored immigrants under this subsection for a fiscal year is, subject to paragraph (b), equal to

(i) 480,000, minus

(ii) the sum of the number computed under paragraph (2) and the number computed under paragraph (4), plus

(iii) the number (if any) computed under paragraph (3).

(B)(i) For each of fiscal years 1992, 1993, and 1994, 465,000 shall be substituted for 480,000 in subparagraph (A)(i).

(ii) In no case shall the number computed under subparagraph (A) be less than 226,000.

(2) The number computed under this paragraph for a fiscal year is the sum of the number of aliens described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subsection (b)(2) who were issued immigrant visas or who otherwise acquired the status of aliens lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence in the previous fiscal year.

(3)(A) The number computed under this paragraph for fiscal year 1992 is zero.

(B) The number computed under this paragraph for fiscal year 1993 is the difference (if any) between the worldwide level established under paragraph (1) for the previous fiscal year and the number of visas used under section 203(a) during that fiscal year.

(C) The number computed under this paragraph for a subsequent fiscal year is the difference (if any) between the maximum number of visas which may be issued under section 203(b) (relating to employment-based immigrants) during the previous fiscal year and the number of visas issued under that section during that year.

(4) The number computed under this paragraph for a fiscal year (beginning with fiscal year 1999) is the number of aliens who were paroled into the United States under section 212(d)(5) in the second preceding fiscal year—

(A) who did not depart from the United States (without advance parole) within 365 days; and

(B) who (i) did not acquire the status of aliens lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence in the two preceding fiscal years, or (ii) acquired such status in such years under a provision of law (other than section 201(b)) which exempts such adjustment from the numerical limitation on the worldwide level of immigration under this section.

(5) If any alien described in paragraph (4) (other than an alien described in paragraph (4)(B)(ii) is subsequently admitted as an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence, such alien shall not again be considered for purposes of paragraph (1).

(d) WORLDWIDE LEVEL OF EMPLOYMENT-BASED IMMIGRANTS.--(1) The worldwide level of employment-based immigrants under this subsection for a fiscal year is equal to—

(A) 140,000, plus

(B) the number computed under paragraph (2).

(2)(A) The number computed under this paragraph for fiscal year 1992 is zero.

(B) The number computed under this paragraph for fiscal year 1993 is the difference (if any) between the worldwide level established under paragraph (1) for the previous fiscal year and the number of visas issued under section 203(b) during that fiscal year.

(C) The number computed under this paragraph for a subsequent fiscal year is the difference (if any) between the maximum number of visas which may be issued under section 203(a) relating to family-sponsored immigrants during the previous fiscal year and the number of visas issued under that section during that year.

(e) **WORLDWIDE LEVEL OF DIVERSITY IMMIGRANTS.**—The worldwide level of diversity immigrants is equal to 55,000 for each fiscal year.

[Amended by sec. 101 of Pub. L. 101-649, Nov. 29, 1990; amended by sec. 302(a)(1) of Pub. L. 102-232, Dec. 12, 1991; amended by sec. 219 of Pub. L. 103-416, Oct. 25, 1994.] [Amended by sec. 603 of Pub. L. 104-208, Sept. 30, 1996.]

INA 202(a)

(TL:VISA-159; 12-20-96)

(a) **PER COUNTRY LEVEL.**—

(1) **NONDISCRIMINATION.**—(A) Except as specifically provided in paragraph (2) and in sections 101(a)(27), 201(b)(2)(A)(i), and 203, no person shall receive any preference or priority or be discriminated against in the issuance of an immigrant visa because of the person's race, sex, nationality, place of birth, or place of residence.

(B) Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to limit the authority of the Secretary of State to determine the procedures for the processing of immigrant visa applications or the locations where such applications will be processed.

[Amended by sec. 633 of Pub. L. 104-208, Sept. 30, 1996.]

(2) **PER COUNTRY LEVELS FOR FAMILY-SPONSORED AND EMPLOYMENT IMMIGRANTS.**—Subject to paragraphs (3) and (4), the total number of immigrant visas made available to natives of any single foreign state or dependent area under subsections (a) and (b) of section 203 in any fiscal year may not exceed 7 percent (in the case of a single foreign state) or 2 percent in the case of a dependent area of the total number of such visas made available under subsections in that fiscal year.

(3) EXCEPTION IF ADDITIONAL VISAS AVAILABLE.—If because of the application of paragraph (2) with respect to one or more foreign states or dependent areas, the total number of visas available under both subsections (a) and (b) of section 203 for a calendar quarter exceeds the number of qualified immigrants who otherwise may be issued such a visa, paragraph (2) shall not apply to visas made available to such states or areas during the remainder of such calendar quarter.

(4) SPECIAL RULES FOR SPOUSES AND CHILDREN OF LAWFUL PERMANENT

RESIDENT ALIENS.—

(A) 75 PERCENT OF 2ND PREFERENCE SET-ASIDE FOR SPOUSES AND CHILDREN NOT SUBJECT TO PER COUNTRY LIMITATION.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Of the visa numbers made available under section 203(a) to immigrants described in section 203(a)(2)(A) in any fiscal year, 75 percent of the 2-A floor (as defined in clause (ii)) shall be issued without regard to the numerical limitation under paragraph (2).

(ii) 2-A FLOOR DEFINED.—In this paragraph, the term “2-A floor” means, for a fiscal year, 77 percent of the total number of visas made available under section 203(a) to immigrants described in section 203(a)(2) in the fiscal year.

(B) TREATMENT OF REMAINING 25 PERCENT FOR COUNTRIES SUBJECT TO

SUBSECTION (e).—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Of the visa numbers made available under section 203(a) to immigrants described in section 203(a)(2)(A) in any fiscal year, the remaining 25 percent of the 2-A floor shall be made available in the case of a state or area that is subject to subsection (e) only to the extent that the total number of visas issued in accordance with subparagraph (A) to natives of the foreign state or area is less than the subsection (e) ceiling (as defined in clause (ii)).

(ii) SUBSECTION (e) CEILING DEFINED.—In clause (i), the term “subsection (e) ceiling” means, for a foreign state or dependent area, 77 percent of the maximum number of visas that may be made available under section 203(a) to immigrants who are natives of the state or area under section 203(a)(2) consistent with subsection (e).

(C) TREATMENT OF UNMARRIED SONS AND DAUGHTERS IN COUNTRIES SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (e).—In the case of a foreign state or dependent area to which subsection (e) applies, the number of immigrant visas that may be made available to natives of the state or area under 203(a)(2)(B) may not exceed—

(i) 23 percent of the maximum number of visas that may be made available under section 203(a) to immigrants of the state or area described in section 203(a)(2) consistent with subsection (e), or

(ii) the number (if any) by which the maximum number of visas that may be made available under section 203(a) to immigrants of the state or area described in section 203(a)(2) consistent with subsection (e) exceeds the number of visas issued under section 203(a)(2)(A), whichever is greater.

(D) LIMITING PASS DOWN FOR CERTAIN COUNTRIES SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION

(e) In the case of a foreign state or dependent area to which subsection (e) applies, if the total number of visas issued under section 203(a)(2) exceeds the maximum number of visas that may be made available to immigrants of the state or area under section 203(a)(2) consistent with subsection (e) (determined without regard to this paragraph), in applying paragraphs (3) and (4) of section 203(a) under subsection (e)(2) all visas shall be deemed to have been required for the classes specified in paragraphs (1) and (2) of such section.

[Amended by sec. 102(l) of Pub. L. 101-649; Nov. 29, 1990]

INA 202(e)

(TL:VISA-101; 11-25-94)

(e) SPECIAL RULES FOR COUNTRIES AT CEILING.—If it is determined that the total number of immigrant visas made available under subsections (a) and (b) of section 203 to natives of any single foreign state or dependent area will exceed the numerical limitation specified in subsection (a)(2) in any fiscal year, in determining the allotment of immigrant visa numbers to natives under subsection (a) and (b) of section 203, visa numbers with respect to natives of that state or area shall be allocated (to the extent practicable and otherwise consistent with this section and section 203) in a manner so that

(1) the ratio of the visa numbers made available under section 203(a) to the visa numbers made available under section 203(b) is equal to the ratio of the worldwide level of immigration under 201(c) to such level under section 201(d);

(2) except as provided in subsection (a)(4), the proportion of the visa numbers made available under each of paragraphs (1) through (4) of section 203(a) is equal to the ratio of the total number of visas made available under the respective paragraph to the total number of visas made available under section 203(a), and

(3) the proportion of the visa numbers made available under each of paragraphs (1) through (5) of section 203(b) is equal to the ratio of the total number of visas made available under the respective paragraph to the total number of visas made available under section 203(b).

Nothing in this subsection shall be construed as limiting the number of visas that may be issued to natives of foreign state or dependent area under 203(a) or 203(b) if there is insufficient demand for visas for such natives under section 203(b) or 203(a), respectively, or as limiting the number of visas that may be issued under section 203(a)(2)(A) pursuant to subsection (a)(4)(A).

[Amended by sec. 102(5) of Pub. L. 101-649; Nov. 29, 1990]

INA 203(a)

(TL:VISA-48; 10-1-91)

For the provisions of 203(a) and (b), see 9 FAM 42.31 Related Statutory Provisions, 42.32(a)-(c) Related Statutory Provisions and 9 FAM 42.34 Related Statutory Provisions.

INA 203(b)(6)

(TL:VISA-101; 11-25-94)

(6) SPECIAL RULES FOR "K" SPECIAL IMMIGRANTS.—

(A) NOT COUNTED AGAINST NUMERICAL LIMITATION IN YEAR INVOLVED.—Subject to subparagraph (B), the number of immigrant visas made available to special immigrants under section 101(a)(27)(K) in a fiscal year shall not be subject to the numerical limitations of this subsection or of section 202(a).

(B) COUNTED AGAINST NUMERICAL LIMITATIONS IN FOLLOWING YEAR.—

(i) REDUCTION IN EMPLOYMENT-BASED IMMIGRANT CLASSIFICATIONS.—The number of visas made available in any fiscal year under paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) shall each be reduced by 1/3 of the number of visas made available in the previous fiscal year to special immigrants described in section 101(a)(27)(K).

(ii) **REDUCTION IN PER COUNTRY LEVEL.**—The number of visas made available in each fiscal year to natives of a foreign state under section 202(a) shall be reduced by the number of visas made available in the previous fiscal year to special immigrants described in section 101(a)(27)(K) who are natives of the foreign state.

(iii) **REDUCTION IN EMPLOYMENT-BASED IMMIGRANT CLASSIFICATIONS WITHIN PER COUNTRY CEILING.**—In the case of a foreign state subject to section 202(e) in a fiscal year (and in the previous fiscal year), the number of visas made available and allocated to each of paragraphs (1) through (3) of this subsection in the fiscal year shall be reduced by 1/3 of the number of visas made available in the previous fiscal year to special immigrants described in section 101(a)(27)(K) who are natives of the foreign state.

[Added by sec. 2(b) of Pub. L. 102-110, Oct. 1, 1991; amended by sec. 212(b) of Pub. L. 103-416, Oct. 25, 1994]

INA 203(g)

(TL:VISA-101; 11-25-94)

(g) **LISTS.** For purposes of carrying out the Secretary's responsibilities in the orderly administration of this section, the Secretary of State may make reasonable estimates of the anticipated numbers of visas to be issued during any quarter of any fiscal year within each of the categories under subsections (a), (b), and (c) and to rely upon such estimates in authorizing the issuance of visas. The Secretary of State shall terminate the registration of any alien who fails to apply for an immigrant visa within one year following notification to the alien of the availability of such visa, but the Secretary shall reinstate the registration of any such alien who establishes within 2 years following the date of notification of the availability of such visa that such failure to apply was due to circumstances beyond the alien's control.

[Amended by sec. 162(a) of Pub. L. 101-649, Nov. 29, 1990]

INA 206

(TL:VISA-3; 8-30-87)

If an immigrant having an immigrant visa is denied admission to the United States and removed, or does not apply for admission before the expiration of the validity of his visa, or if an alien having an immigrant visa issued to him as a preference immigrant is found not to be a preference immigrant, an immigrant visa or a preference immigrant visa, as the case may be, may be issued in lieu thereof to another qualified alien.