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Immigration Law e-Update The Visa Lottery

The diversity immigrant visa lottery under the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1997 provides 50,000 immigrant visas each fiscal year to natives of countries from which immigration has been low over the preceding five years. Your foreign national employees should be made aware of this opportunity immediately, as registration for the 2007 visa lottery opens October 5, 2005.

When

The registration period for the 2007 visa lottery is from noon on Wednesday, October 5, 2005 until noon on Sunday, December 4, 2005. The registration is done electronically at the U.S. Department of State's website at www.dvlottery.state.gov.

Who

The 2007 Visa lottery is open to natives of most countries, except the following "high admission" countries that are excluded this year: CANADA, CHINA (mainland-born), COLOMBIA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, EL SALVADOR, HAITI, INDIA, JAMAICA, MEXICO, PAKISTAN, PHILIPPINES, POLAND, RUSSIA, SOUTH KOREA, UNITED KINGDOM (except Northern Ireland) and its dependent territories, and VIETNAM. In most cases, to be a native of the country means to have been born in that country. However, there are limited circumstances when an otherwise ineligible person may claim eligibility through the native country of a spouse or a parent. For detailed instructions and to view the complete list of eligible and ineligible countries, please refer to the Department of State's website at http://travel.state.gov/visa/immigrants/types/types_2645.html.

The visa lottery also requires that applicants must possess either a high school education or its equivalent, or two years of experience in a qualified occupation. The list of qualified occupations may be found on the Department of Labor's website at http://travel.state.gov/visa/immigrants/types/types_1319.html.

A successful applicant's spouse and unmarried children under the age of 21 are automatically entitled to the same status. Additionally, if otherwise eligible, a husband and wife may each submit a visa lottery application.

Selection

Applicants will be selected at random from all qualified entries. The selected applicants will be notified by mail between May and July 2006 and will be provided further instructions. In order to actually receive a visa, the selected applicants must still meet all eligibility requirements under

U.S. law.

How

The registration is done electronically at the U.S. Department of State's website at www.dvlottery.state.gov. Paper entries will not be accepted.

Only one application may be submitted for each applicant. Submission of more than one application will disqualify the applicant from registration.

At the time of registration, the applicant must be prepared to submit an electronic file containing his or her digital photo image that conforms to specific parameters indicated in the instructions at http://travel.state.gov/visa/immigrants/types/types_2645.html.

There is NO fee to enter the visa lottery program. The Department of State does not endorse, recommend or sponsor any information or material from outside entities. The Department alerts that there have been many websites and emails masquerading as official diversity visa lottery facilitators, but the Department continues to emphasize that the registration is done through the official U.S. government website at www.dvlottery.state.gov, that there is no fee charged, and that the notification of winning entries are sent by mail only.

COMPLETE INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE 2007 VISA LOTTERY PROGRAM can be found at the U.S. Department of State's website at:

DV Program - overview

http://travel.state.gov/visa/immigrants/types/types_1322.html

2007 Diversity Visa Lottery Instructions

http://travel.state.gov/visa/immigrants/types/types_2645.html

Occupations Requiring at Least Two Years of Training or Experience to Perform

http://travel.state.gov/visa/immigrants/types/types_1319.html



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