

THE FP VISA BULLETIN FOR OCTOBER 2026: FINAL ACTION DATES AND AN EMPLOYER'S IMMIGRATION ACTION PLAN

Insights
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The FP Visa Bulletin for October 2026: Final Action Dates and an Employer's Immigration Action Plan

Each month, federal immigration authorities publish a list of dates informing immigrant visa applicants when they should expect to be notified to assemble and submit required documentation to government officials. This Insight reviews October's release to help employers determine whether and when you should provide corresponding notifications to any of your foreign-national employees to assist their efforts. You'll also find a specific action plan so you can adapt your immigration strategy given this month's information. Read on to ensure you follow compliant processes that address your critical workforce needs in a timely manner.

October Dates: An Overview

US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced that it will follow the State Department's "Dates for Filing" chart published in the October Visa Bulletin to determine whether candidates are eligible to submit an Adjustment of Status application on Form I-485 for that month. Dates appearing in this chart must be compared with an employee's Immigration Priority Date shown on their EB-1/2/3 I-140 approval notice with their current employer to determine eligibility.

Movement in Employment-Based Preference Classes for October

Related People



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Service Focus

Immigration

The October 2026 filing cutoffs are set out below. Because USCIS required employment-based applicants to use the Final Action Dates chart in September but permits the Dates for Filing chart in October, the comparisons that follow describe a change in the operative I-485 filing cutoff, not necessarily movement between the same chart in consecutive Visa Bulletins. A Dates for Filing cutoff authorizes filing, but it does not establish that a visa number is available for final approval.

For India, the EB-1 filing cutoff moves from October 15, 2022, to July 1, 2024. The EB-2 category, unavailable under September's operative Final Action Dates chart, has an October filing cutoff of January 15, 2015. This allows eligible applicants to file, but does not mean immigrant visa numbers are immediately available for approval. The EB-3 filing cutoff moves from January 1, 2014, to January 15, 2015.

China's operative filing cutoffs move forward in all three categories: EB-1 to July 1, 2024, EB-2 to January 1, 2023, and EB-3 to April 1, 2024. EB-1 remains current for all other chargeability areas, Mexico, and the Philippines. EB-2 changes from current under September's operative chart to a March 15, 2026, filing cutoff for those areas. EB-3 moves back one month for all other chargeability areas and Mexico, while the Philippines' EB-3 cutoff moves forward to January 1, 2024.

EB-1

- EB-1 remains current for All Chargeability Areas Except Those Listed, Mexico, and the Philippines.
- EB-1 China: July 1, 2024 (previous operative filing cutoff: July 1, 2023).
- EB-1 India: July 1, 2024 (previous operative filing cutoff: October 15, 2022).

EB-2

- EB-2 All Chargeability Areas Except Those Listed, Mexico, and the Philippines: March 15, 2026 (previously current for filing).
- EB-2 China: January 1, 2023 (previous operative filing cutoff: September 1, 2021).

- EB-2 India: January 15, 2015 (September's operative Final Action category was unavailable).

EB-3

- EB-3 All Chargeability Areas Except Those Listed and Mexico: August 1, 2024 (previous operative filing cutoff: September 1, 2024).
- EB-3 China: April 1, 2024 (previous operative filing cutoff: January 1, 2022).
- EB-3 India: January 15, 2015 (previous operative filing cutoff: January 1, 2014).
- EB-3 Philippines: January 1, 2024 (previous operative filing cutoff: August 1, 2023).

Dates for Filing

The October 2026 employment-based Dates for Filing cutoffs for EB-1, EB-2, and EB-3 appear below. "C" means current. The Dates for Filing chart controls eligibility to file Form I-485 this month, not final approval. Check the official sources before acting: [State Department Visa Bulletin and USCIS October filing chart](#)

Employment-based	All Chargeability Areas Except Those Listed	CHINA-mainland born	INDIA	MEXICO	PH
1st	C	01JUL24	01JUL24	C	C
2nd	15MAR26	01JAN23	15JAN15	15MAR26	15JAN15
3rd	01AUG24	01APR24	15JAN15	01AUG24	01JAN15

What Should You Do? Your Action Plan

For October, USCIS is using the Dates for Filing chart to determine when an otherwise eligible applicant may file Form I-485. A category marked "C" is current for filing. Where a cutoff date is listed, the applicant's priority date generally must be earlier than that date. A filing date does not authorize final approval: USCIS may approve an adjustment application only when an immigrant visa is available under the applicable Final Action Dates chart and the applicant otherwise qualifies.

If an adjustment application is already pending and the applicable Final Action Date no longer permits final approval, the application can remain pending until a visa number becomes available. Subject to the applicable requirements, USCIS may continue processing associated employment authorization and advance parole applications while the I-485 remains pending. Employees should maintain appropriate work and travel authorization and consult counsel before international travel.

Review employees' priority dates, chargeability, and petition categories now, including cases previously unable to file under September's operative chart. For employees eligible under October's Dates for Filing chart, contact your Fisher Phillips immigration attorney promptly to assess all filing requirements and prepare Form I-485 applications during October. Do not treat eligibility to file as a prediction of when USCIS can approve permanent residence.

Conclusion

We will continue to monitor developments from immigration officials and provide similar guidance monthly. Make sure you are subscribed to [Fisher Phillips' Insight System](#) to get the most up-to-date information, including next month's FP Visa Bulletin. If you have any questions, please contact your Fisher Phillips attorney, the author of this Insight, or any attorney in our [Immigration Practice Group](#).