

Immitips Special Update on July 2007 Visa Bulletin!

Dear Immitips Readers,

The July 2007 Visa Bulletin has brought great news - All Employment Based Visa Categories have been declared Current for July and will probably remain so till September 2007! But this is not the time to enjoy simply. Applicants for this category will have to take advantage of this good fortune and start I-485 filing processes as soon as possible.

The Immitips team has prepared a special I-485 Survival KIT- so to say- that will guide you through the immigration process under the current scenario. For any further enquiries, please email us at tipme@immitips.com or post your query on our Forum!

For Legal Consultation, contact our sponsors at reachus@bizlegalservices.com

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■ **All EB-Categories Current for July 2007: Time to File your I-485s!**

The July Visa Bulletin has shocked the immigration world by making the priority dates current for all Employment Based Visa Categories across the globe. This means Green card aspirants who have either filed their [Form I-140 \(Immigrant Petition for Alien Worker\)](#) or already have approved I-140s in their possession can file for [I-1485 \(Application To Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status\)](#), *irrespective of their priority dates.*

For more details read our news story [July 2007 Visa Bulletin: All EB Categories Current!](#)

The July 2007 Visa Bulletin clearly states that the categories have been made "Current" by the Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS) to generate more demand and to speed up adjustment of status cases. So, we can easily conclude this was not a natural occurrence. Logically, once the demand is generated and the rush of applications take over, we will again get back to slow motion and retrogression. The Bulletin predicts a window of two months till September. We believe it's a generous estimate and the window is likely to be even shorter.

Consequently the need to file I-485s and correctly within this window can mean the difference between getting a green card within the next fiscal year or not.

Interestingly enough, while there had been some forward movement in the EB categories lately, no one has actually expected the categories to become current simultaneously. But, looking at the recent attempts at steam lining the green card process, it makes sense that this follows close to the heels of the decision to terminate Labor Substitution. Additionally, this will also offer a little relief to the employers who were sorely disappointed by the stalling of the Immigration Bill which promised more H1B workers.

■ Who can file for I-485s?

Filing Form I-485 is one of the steps to obtaining a Green Card in U.S. So, all green card aspirants who have an offer of permanent employment and an employer willing to process their I-140 can file for I-485. Unlike I-140 though, I-485 is the responsibility of the applicant, not the employer. While he or she can retain the same legal counsel used by the employer during the I-140, the process will not be sponsored or facilitated anyway by the employer.

Form I-485 can be filed by

1. Whoever has filed for I-140 and is pending approval (The filing receipt is necessary)
2. Whoever has an approved I-140 as of now
3. Whoever is planning to file for I-140 and I-485 concurrently

■ Guidelines for Filing I-485: Information & Documentation Required

The information below has been prepared after consultation with our Legal Sponsors, The International Legal & Business Services Group. These Guidelines and the [I-485 Questionnaire](#) attached have been prepared in mind with what your legal counsel requires from you, as an applicant, in the process of Filing Form I-485. Apart from Form I-485,

- You will need to file [Form G-325a \(Biographic Information of Applicant\)](#).
 - Each applicant including dependent over the age of 13 must complete a separate form.
 - While the form includes four separate but identical pages, you will need to complete each page. DO NOT PRINT THESE FORMS BACK TO BACK - PRINT EACH FORM ON A SEPARATE PAPER.
 - Send the G-325a with the rest of the documents after we email your complete forms for your signature.
- You will need to file [Form I-693 \(Medical Examination of Aliens Seeking Adjustment of Status\)](#).
 - The medical exam report should be submitted with the I-485 application.
 - The medical examination must be completed by a USCIS certified physician within the United States.
 - **NOTE:** The doctor will return the medical form to the individual in a sealed envelope. This should NOT be opened by you (the applicant) and or by your attorney. This document is only to be opened by the USCIS.
 - The medical Test is for you *and your dependents*.
 - For this purpose, you need to find a USCIS certified physician (Doctor) for the medical examination. You can find the names of such physicians at the following site
https://egov.uscis.gov/crisgwi/go?action=offices.type&OfficeLocator.office_type=CIV

- You can get this information by calling USCIS' National Customer Service Center at 1-800-375-5283. You will be asked to provide your zip code. Please have a pen or pencil ready to write down the list of civil surgeons in your area.

- *If you have dependents, you will need to file [Form I-134 \(Affidavit of Support\)](#)*
 - It is self explanatory simply fill and get it notarized. The attorney's office will prepare the rest of the documentation (see [Questionnaire for details](#)) and send it to you for your signature.

- You need to provide Six (6) Photos for *each* applicant.
 - *Here are the photo guidelines from USCIS:*
 - The photos must be an un-framed, full face color photos, taken within the last six months.
 - Your head should be bare unless you are wearing a headdress as required by a religious order to which you belong.
 - The photo should be 2X2 inches (roughly 50 mm square) with the head centered in the frame, with the distance from the top of the head to just below the chin about 1 inch to 1 3/8 inches.
 - The applicants' chin can not be touching the bottom of the photo, because the photo will be cut and the student's chin will disappear from the photo.
 - There must be no spots on the photos. Photos must have a white or off-white background. There must be no shadows on the photos.
 - There must be no reflections on the photos. Good contrast between image and background is essential. Photos for very light-skinned people should be slightly underexposed. Photos for very dark-skinned people should be slightly overexposed.
 - NO GLASSES should be worn in the photos.
 - Print your name and I-94 number on the back of the photos in PENCIL.
 - Do not press on the pictures.
 - Place the pictures in an envelope or small plastic "sandwich size" bag and attach the envelope or bag to their packet. Be sure not to staple or otherwise put any holes in the pictures themselves.

Downloadable Documents*:

- ☑ [I-485 - Questionnaire/Data Sheet](#)
- ☑ [Form G-325a \(Biographic Information of Applicant\)](#)
- ☑ [Form I-693 \(Medical Examination of Aliens Seeking Adjustment of Status\)](#)
- ☑ [Form I-134 \(Affidavit of Support\)](#)
- ☑ [Form I-1485 \(Application To Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status\)](#)

[Form I-140 \(Immigrant Petition for Alien Worker\)](#)

*These documents are available on the Immitips site [here](#)