



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Employment & Training Administration

November 13, 2009

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About
ETA
Find Job &
Career Info
Business
& Industry
Workforce
Professionals
Grants &
Contracts
ETA
Library
Foreign Labor
Certification
Performance
& Results
Regions
& States

[FLC Home](#) > Foreign Labor Certification Contacts List


Foreign Labor Certification

News & Updates

1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | [Archives](#) 

- **November 12, 2009 Extension of the H-2A Transition Period Procedures:** The Department has sent to the Federal Register an Interim Final Rule (IFR) extending the transition period application filing procedures implemented under the December 2008 H-2A Final Rule. The application filing procedures under the extended transition period apply to all employers with dates of need before June 1, 2010. To read the IFR please [click here](#). Persons interested in submitting comments may do so in the manner indicated in the IFR up to 30 days after publication.

- **October 19, 2009 The Expiration of the H-1C Nursing Relief for Disadvantaged Areas Reauthorization Act of 2005:** Effective December 21, 2009, the Nursing Relief for Disadvantaged Areas Reauthorization Act will sunset. The Nursing Relief for Disadvantage Areas Act (NRDAA) established the H-1C Program in 1999 to reduce the shortage of qualified nurses in health professional shortage areas. The Program was reauthorized until December 20, 2009 under the Nursing Relief for Disadvantage Areas Reauthorization Act of 2005 which became effective in December 20, 2006.

Under the H-1C Program, eligible hospitals filed attestations with the Department of Labor's, Employment and Training Administration (ETA) to support nonimmigrant worker petitions filed with the Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. Absent further legislative action, Congress has not elected to reinstate the H-1C Program and will no longer accept H-1C Attestations on Form ETA 9081 for foreign nurse positions effective December 21, 2009. The hospitals utilizing the H-1C Program may continue to file applications with the Department of Labor through its other programs including the H-1B Program and the PERM Program, as appropriate. Please address questions regarding the H-1C Program to TLC.Chicago@dol.gov.

- **October 2, 2009 DOL Extends Comment Period For H-2A Rulemaking:** The Employment and Training Administration and the Employment Standards Administration recently issued a proposed rule regarding the application process for and enforcement of temporary alien agricultural (H-2A) labor certifications. 74 FR 45906 (Sept. 4, 2009). Today the agencies published a Notice to extend the comment period through October 20, 2009. To read this notice, [click here](#).
- **September 9, 2009 LCA FAQs:** The Department has posted FAQs concerning the iCERT system and LCAs, including information regarding FEINs. To read the FAQs please [click here](#).

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- [ETA 9141](#)
- [ETA 9089](#)
- [ETA 9035](#)
- [ETA 750](#)
- [ETA 9127](#)
- [All Forms](#)

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- [Permanent](#)
- [H-1B](#)
- [H-1B1](#)
- [E-3](#)
- [H-1C](#)
- [H-2A](#)
- [H-2B](#)
- [D-1](#)

FAQs

- [Permanent](#)
- [H-1B](#)
- [H-1C](#)
- [H-2A](#)