

April 9, 2008

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## The H-1B Lottery: Playing Games with America's Innovation Future



### H-1B Cap Hit Immediately – Again

The U.S. Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has announced that the FY 2009 allotment of visas for highly educated foreign-born professionals was exceeded by applications received during the filing period that began on Tuesday, April 1, 2008. H-1B visa “winners” will once again be determined by random lottery.

- This marks the **first year that both the 65,000 overall cap and 20,000 cap exemption were reached during the filing period.** Last year the 20,000 cap exemption was reached weeks after the filing period.
- This is the **second year in a row** that the overall cap has been reached during the filing period.
- This is the **fifth consecutive year** that the cap has been reached on or before the beginning of the new fiscal year.

### ***The H-1B visa and EB green card systems must be reformed this year.***

To play the H-1B lottery and to learn more about highly educated immigration, visit [www.competeamerica.org](http://www.competeamerica.org).

*Compete America (www.competeamerica.org) is a coalition of corporations, educators, research institutions and trade associations concerned about legal, employment-based immigration and committed to ensuring that the United States has the highly educated workforce necessary to ensure continued innovation, job creation and leadership in a worldwide economy.*