

OCTOBER 6 - 10, 2014

In This Issue:

> [**U.S. Government Offices in India, Singapore and Malaysia will be Closed During Upcoming Holiday**](#)

[Christian Triantaphyllis](#)

U.S. Embassies and Consulates in India, Singapore, and Malaysia will be closed on Wednesday, October 22, for the Diwali (Deepavali) holiday. Immigration services for visa applicants will not be available while offices are closed for the Diwali (Deepavali) holiday. It is encouraged to submit applications before the holiday to avoid delays.... [Continue Reading](#)

> [**Oil Companies in Angola Must Submit a Program Contract and HR Development Plan by October 31st**](#)

[Catharine Yen](#)

In Angola, all companies in the oil industry are required to file an annual program contract and human resources development plan by October 31, 2014. The program contract and human resources development plan should show how the company is taking steps towards including more Angola workers in their workforce. Companies who do not meet the ... [Continue Reading](#)

> [**November Visa Bulletin Confirms Fears of Significant Retrogression for EB-2 India**](#)

[Scott Decker](#)

The Department of State released its November Visa Bulletin today. It is a mixture of good news and really bad news. The good news is that the EB-2 and EB-3 categories for all countries, except for India, continue to experience forward movement. Worldwide, EB-2 availability remains current and EB-3 availability advanced to June 1, 2012. ... [Continue Reading](#)

> [**Russia: Employers Have Until October 30 to Report Salaries of Highly Qualified Specialists**](#)

[Shaun Staller*](#)

The Russian Federal Migration Service requires that companies operating in Russia that employ Highly Qualified Specialists (HQS) report the salaries paid to those HQS during the third quarter of 2014 (July 1 to Sept. 30) before the end of the month. Employers that do not comply face administrative fines ranging from 400,000 rubles to 1 ... [Continue Reading](#)

> [**New Final Rule for Exchange Visitor Program**](#)

[Christian Triantaphyllis](#)

A final rule was recently published by the Department of State (DOS) that affects its J-1 Exchange Visitor Program. The J-1 visa category will go through some significant administrative and program compliance changes, including: J-1 Responsible Officers (ROs) and Alternate Responsible Officers (AROs) must have three years of relevant international experience and clear a criminal ... [Continue Reading](#)

> [**FBI Clearance Requests Delayed Following New Computer System Roll-Out**](#)

[Shaun Staller*](#)

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is presently processing clearance requests at a very slow pace and has suspended processing of all nongovernmental fingerprint requests until further notice due to a new computer system at the FBI's Criminal Justice Information Service division. The slowdown is affecting requests pending as of September 7, 2014, and possibly ... [Continue Reading](#)

> [**Argentina's Move to Electronic Visa Filings Results in Delays**](#)

[Rebecca Schechter](#)

Argentina's transition to an electronic filing system for visa and work permit applications has produced lengthy processing delays. The Direccion Nacional de Migraciones (DNM)'s new electronic system eliminates jurisdictional rules and allows companies to submit documents at any DNM office as all DNM offices have access to uploaded applications. However, applicants must still appear in ... [Continue Reading](#)

> [Visa Procedures to Change at the U.S. Embassy in the Dominican Republic](#)

[Ian Macdonald](#)

Employers and employees should take note that the U.S. Embassy in Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic will implement several changes to the visa application process, effective November 12, 2014. Specifically, applicants for B-2 Tourist Visas will need to follow a multiple-step process: (i) they will first have to go to the U.S. Embassy's webpage ... [Continue Reading](#)

> [India Expected to Implement E-Visa Processing in 2015](#)

[Ian Macdonald](#)

In a statement by India's tourism minister, employers and employees can look forward to E-Visa processing by June 2015. E-Visa processing, also known as Electronic Visa Authorisation (ETA), is expected to be available to approximately 15 countries initially. The list of countries is a point of contention among the three Indian government agencies involved in ... [Continue Reading](#)

> [USCIS to Purge 10-Year Old E-Verify Records](#)

[Ian Macdonald](#)

Starting January 1, 2015, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) will start purging the E-Verify records of employers that are 10 years old or more. This initiative is in accordance with the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) records retention and disposal requirements which mandate that USCIS dispose of E-Verify records after 10 years. In ... [Continue Reading](#)

> [Uruguay Enhances Intra-MERCOSUR Mobility in EU-like Move](#)

Shaun Staller*

The Uruguayan government has enacted a new immigration law—effective later in October—that will offer expedited 30-business-day processing of permanent residence permits and accompanying work authorization to MERCOSUR nationals. It is expected to issue implementing regulations and specify application requirements within the next several weeks. Residence permit applications, which will be less burdensome, can be filed ... [Continue Reading](#)

> [USCIS Launches myE-Verify with Identity Protection Features](#)

[Scott Decker](#)

On October 6, 2014, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Director León Rodríguez announced the launch of myE-Verify — a new website designed to be a “one-stop shop” for employees to create and maintain secure personal accounts and access new features for identity protection. myE-Verify provides workers with a free and secure outlet to interface ... [Continue Reading](#)

> [Singapore Scrutinizing Long-Term Visit Passes for Unmarried Couples](#)

[Catharine Yen](#)

The Singapore Ministry of Manpower is applying stricter scrutiny towards Long-Term Visit Pass applications for unmarried couples. Long-Term Visit Passes are generally used by unmarried partners or stepchildren of Employment Pass holders to work and reside in Singapore. Previously, Singapore accepted notarized declarations by work pass holders stating that their common-law relationship is recognized by ... [Continue Reading](#)

> [Australia: Fair Work Inspectors Can Now Check For Immigration Compliance](#)

Shaun Staller*

All Australian businesses were already under the obligation to only employ staff authorized to work in Australia. Those businesses that are registered to sponsor overseas employees have additional obligations as well, such as a duty to provide notifications to the Department of Immigration and Border Protection and to ensure that visa holders receive market salary ... [Continue Reading](#)

> [Bermuda Reveals New Draft Work Permit Policy](#)

[Catharine Yen](#)

On October 1, 2014, the Minister of Home Affairs revealed the new Draft Work Permit Policy which offers new categories of work permits. The goal of the new work permit policy is to restore economic health to Bermuda and create job opportunities for local Bermudians. Minister of Home Affairs intends the new policy to come ... [Continue Reading](#)

> [Delays in Kenya Work Permit Applications](#)

[Rebecca Schechter](#)

Kenya's Department of Immigration Services has effectively put all pending work permit applications on hold. The Department's work permit review committee has not worked on applications for the last few weeks. Those applicants who urgently need work authorization may apply for short-term work passes, which have not been affected. It appears that the work stoppage ... [Continue Reading](#)

> [Delays with Start-Up Visa In Israel Hurt High Tech Firms](#)

[Emily Liss](#)

Israeli high tech firms are experiencing challenges hiring skilled tech workers due to a lack of visa options. Israel has a one year renewable work visa for Jewish foreign nationals and an expert worker visa option; however, foreign entrepreneurs and high tech workers typically do not qualify for these options. Israel's Economy Ministry proposed creating ... [Continue Reading](#)

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