

# ALERTS

## Immigration Update

### H-1B CAP IMMINENT FOR U.S. MASTERS DEGREE HOLDERS

Immigration Practice Team

As of July 6, 2006, USCIS has received or granted more than 15,000 H-1B applications for foreign workers with a U.S. Advanced Degree. The cap of 20,000 will soon be reached.

Each fiscal year (beginning October 1), there is an exemption from the general H-1B cap to allow 20,000 H-1B visas for foreign workers with a Master's or higher level degree from a U.S. academic institution.

We highly recommend that you immediately contact our office should you require an H-1B visa for any prospective or current employee who holds a U.S. Advanced Degree.

USCIS will attempt to provide updated cap usage figures twice a week until the cap is reached. USCIS's website tracking the H-1B usage can be found at: <http://www.uscis.gov/graphics/services/tempbenefits/cap.htm>