H-1B Numbers for U.S. Masters Graduates Remain

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USCIS HQ has confirmed to AILA that, despite rumors to the contrary, H-1B numbers remain for both fiscal 2005 and 2006 for graduates of U.S. masters or above programs. Please remember that, for fiscal 2005 numbers (i.e., a start date earlier than 10/1/05), the petition should be filed at the Vermont Service Center at this special address: USCIS Vermont Service Center, 1A Lemnah Drive, St. Albans, VT 05479-7001. Petitions for fiscal 2006 numbers (i.e., a start date of 10/1/05 or later) should be filed at the service center having jurisdiction over the place of employment.

AILA has received some reports of properly-filed H-1B petitions for these numbers being rejected on the basis of the cap being reached. If you filed such a petition properly, and it was rejected, please advise AILA at reports@aila.org, so the appropriate liaison committee can raise the issue with the service center in question. Please specify whether the petition was for a fiscal 2005 or 2006 number, and which service center rejected it.