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Seeking to work in U.S. Tropical Islands? Immigration Reaches FY2016 Visa Cap for CW-1 Workers

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Immigration Reaches FY2016 Visa Cap for CW-1 Workers

CW-1 Cap

On May 20, 2016, U.S. Immigration and Citizenship Services (USCIS) has received sufficient petitions to meet the government-mandated Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 quota (visa cap or numerical limit) of 12,999 workers for CW-1 visas.

May 5, 2016 was the final date USCIS would receive **CW-1 worker petitions for an employment start date prior to October 1, 2016 start-date.**

USCIS is still accepting CW-1 worker petitions for FY 2017 for an employment start date of or after October 1, 2016.

A given fiscal year starts from October 1 and ends on September 30 the following year.

All CW-1 workers (new employment and extension petitions) are **subject to cap unless the worker has already been counted towards the cap for the same fiscal year.**

What is a CW-1 Worker?

CW is for Transitional Worker nonimmigrant visa classification **for foreign workers only in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), and who are ineligible for other types of employment nonimmigrant classifications** in the Immigration & Nationality Act (INA). **CW program is scheduled to expire on December 31, 2019.**

Relationship between U.S. and Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

CNMI is a group of islands in the Pacific Ocean, located between Hawaii and the Philippines. CNMI has chosen to be under the U.S. administration.

This article is intended for informational purposes only, and should not be relied on as legal advice or attorney-client relationship. By **Aik Wan Kok, Lawyer USA Immigration Services, at Tiya;** Tel: 703-772-8224 & koka at tiyalaw dot com; Direct dial from abroad: 001-703-772-8224; https://www.tiyaimmigration.com ; http://tiyalaw.blogspot.com ;https://immigrationresource.net

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