

IMMIGRATION UPDATE®

October 18, 2013



DOL WEBSITES "REOPEN" FOR FILING LCAS, PERMS, AND APPLICATIONS FOR PREVAILING WAGE DETERMINATIONS

When the Federal Government shutdown began on October 1st, many nonessential government services were suspended, including U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) acceptance and adjudication of Labor Condition Applications (LCAs), PERM Labor Certification Applications, and Applications for Prevailing Wage Determinations (PWD).

When the shutdown ended on October 17th, the Government began to resume many of the suspended services. Today the DOL has resumed adjudications of LCAs, Prevailing Wage Determinations, and PERM Labor Certification filings. The DOL websites for filing LCAs, PWD Applications, and PERM Applications have resumed operation, and the DOL is now accepting new applications. Initially the websites became available briefly, and then went offline again before returning to normal functionality. Users are reporting that pages are loading slower than normal and in some cases have stalled out or generated error messages before a form submission could be confirmed.

Applications that could not be filed with the DOL over the past three weeks may now be filed. The expected volume of new filings may result in further delays in adjudications. In cases where deadlines were missed or extension filings were delayed beyond a nonimmigrant's previous period of authorized stay due to the suspension of DOL adjudication, employees may experience a gap in status and work authorization. Contact your FosterQuan immigration attorney for more information on how to minimize or avoid the impact of filing delays and gaps in status.

As further information becomes available regarding the resumption of immigration-related Government services, we will provide additional updates via <u>our firm's website</u> and in future Immigration Update[©] email bulletins.