



BG

U.S. Department of Justice
Immigration and Naturalization Service

prevented clearly unmerited
invasion of personal privacy.

OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS
425 Eye Street N.W.
ULLB, 3rd Floor
Washington, D.C. 20536

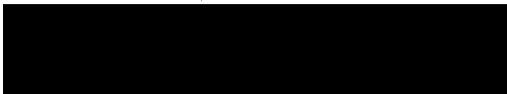


File: WAC 98 221 52415

Office: California Service Center

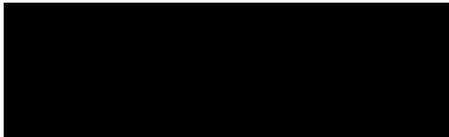
Date: 5 MAR 2002

IN RE: Petitioner:
Beneficiary:



Petition: Immigrant Petition for Alien Worker as a Skilled Worker or Professional Pursuant to § 203(b)(3) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. 1153(b)(3)

IN BEHALF OF PETITIONER:



Public Copy

INSTRUCTIONS:

This is the decision in your case. All documents have been returned to the office which originally decided your case. Any further inquiry must be made to that office.

If you believe the law was inappropriately applied or the analysis used in reaching the decision was inconsistent with the information provided or with precedent decisions, you may file a motion to reconsider. Such a motion must state the reasons for reconsideration and be supported by any pertinent precedent decisions. Any motion to reconsider must be filed within 30 days of the decision that the motion seeks to reconsider, as required under 8 C.F.R. 103.5(a)(1)(i).

If you have new or additional information which you wish to have considered, you may file a motion to reopen. Such a motion must state the new facts to be proved at the reopened proceeding and be supported by affidavits or other documentary evidence. Any motion to reopen must be filed within 30 days of the decision that the motion seeks to reopen, except that failure to file before this period expires may be excused in the discretion of the Service where it is demonstrated that the delay was reasonable and beyond the control of the applicant or petitioner. Id.

Any motion must be filed with the office which originally decided your case along with a fee of \$110 as required under 8 C.F.R. 103.7.

FOR THE ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER,
EXAMINATIONS

Robert P. Wiemann
Robert P. Wiemann, Director
Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The preference visa petition was denied by the Director, California Service Center, and is now before the Associate Commissioner for Examinations on appeal. The appeal will be dismissed.

The petitioner is a foreign and domestic auto repair shop. It seeks to employ the beneficiary permanently in the United States as a mechanic/foreign-domestic autos. As required by statute, the petition is accompanied by an individual labor certification approved by the Department of Labor. The director determined that the petitioner had not established that it had the financial ability to pay the beneficiary the proffered wage as of the filing date of the visa petition.

On appeal, counsel submits a statement and additional evidence.

Section 203(b)(3)(A)(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), 8 U.S.C. 1153(b)(3)(A)(i), provides for the granting of preference classification to qualified immigrants who are capable, at the time of petitioning for classification under this paragraph, of performing skilled labor (requiring at least two years training or experience), not of a temporary or seasonal nature, for which qualified workers are not available in the United States.

8 C.F.R. 204.5(g)(2) states in pertinent part:

Ability of prospective employer to pay wage. Any petition filed by or for an employment-based immigrant which requires an offer of employment must be accompanied by evidence that the prospective United States employer has the ability to pay the proffered wage. The petitioner must demonstrate this ability at the time the priority date is established and continuing until the beneficiary obtains lawful permanent residence. Evidence of this ability shall be either in the form of copies of annual reports, federal tax returns, or audited financial statements.

Eligibility in this matter hinges on the petitioner's ability to pay the wage offered as of the petition's filing date, which is the date the request for labor certification was accepted for processing by any office within the employment system of the Department of Labor. Matter of Wing's Tea House, 16 I&N Dec. 158 (Act. Reg. Comm. 1977). Here, the petition's filing date is October 23, 1995. The beneficiary's salary as stated on the labor certification is \$11.00 per hour or \$22,880.00 per annum.

Counsel filed the I-140 petition without copies of its corporate

tax returns. Therefore, on July 15, 1999, the director requested that the petitioner submit evidence of its ability to pay the proffered wage as of October 23, 1995.

In response, counsel submitted a copy of the petitioner's unaudited financial statement for the period ended June 30, 1999.

The director determined that the evidence did not establish that the petitioner had the ability to pay the proffered wage and denied the petition accordingly.

On appeal, counsel submits copies of the petitioner's sales tax returns from the State of California for 1998 and 1999, and copies of the petitioner's bank statements from January through August of 1999. Counsel states:

On July 15, 1999 INS requested ability to pay wages by petitioner. Financial statements were provided reflecting petitioners ability to pay wages. However, INS denied based on the fact that financial statements were not officially verified by an accredit outside source. Enclosed you will find official sales tax returns for petitioner. Official bank statements of petitioner. Official lease agreement between petitioner and lessor for additional space wherein petitioner will continue expansion of his business. The above official outside official documents clearly shows petitioner has the ability to pay wages to beneficiary.

The submitted evidence is not sufficient to establish that the petitioner has the ability to pay the proffered wage. 8 C.F.R. 204.5(g)(2). No additional evidence has been received to date. Accordingly, after a review of the documentation furnished, it is concluded that the petitioner has not established that it had sufficient available funds to pay the salary offered at the time of filing of the petition and continuing to present.

Additionally, the petitioner may not use the current labor certification. See Matter of United Investment Group, 19 I&N Dec. 248 (Act. Reg. Comm. 1984).

The burden of proof in these proceedings rests solely with the petitioner. Section 291 of the Act, 8 U.S.C. 1361. The petitioner has not met that burden.

ORDER: The appeal is dismissed.