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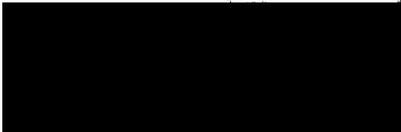
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Citizenship and Immigration Services

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ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS OFFICE
CIS, AAO, 20 Mass, 3/F
425 I Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20536



File: WAC 99 044 53436 Office: California Service Center

Date: DEC 10 2003

IN RE: Petitioner:
Beneficiary:



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

ON BEHALF OF PETITIONER:



INSTRUCTIONS:

This is the decision in your case. All documents have been returned to the office that 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 that 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 Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS) 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 that originally decided your case along with a fee of \$110 as required under 8 C.F.R. § 103.7.

Alex E Crawford for
Robert P. Wiemann, Director
Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The employment-based preference visa petition was denied by the Director, California Service Center. The director's decision to deny the petition was affirmed by the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal. The matter is now before the AAO on a motion to reopen. The motion will be granted. The decision of the AAO will be affirmed and the petition will be denied.

The petitioner is involved in the laminating and gold plating of printed circuit boards. It seeks to employ the beneficiary permanently in the United States as a plater. 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 priority date of the visa petition. The AAO affirmed this determination on appeal.

On motion, counsel submits a brief and additional documentation.

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 priority 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 7, 1996. The beneficiary's salary as stated on the labor certification is \$8.20 per hour or \$17,056.00 per annum.

The AAO affirmed the director's decision to deny the petition, noting that the petitioner had not submitted evidence of its ability to pay the proffered wage as of the filing date of the petition.

On motion, counsel submits copies of W-2 Wage and Tax Statements which show the beneficiary was paid \$11,424.00 in 1996, \$16,476.00 in 1998, \$16,636.00 in 1999, \$17,484.00 in 2000, and \$18,652.63 in 2001, and a copy of the petitioner's 2001 Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Form 1120S which shows an ordinary income of -\$59,846.00.

A review of the evidence submitted on motion shows that the petitioner paid the beneficiary the proffered wage in 2000 and 2001. It is noted that no W-2 for 1997 was submitted, nor was a federal tax return.

The petitioner must show that it has the ability to pay the proffered wage at the time the priority date is established and continuing until the beneficiary obtains lawful permanent residence. Here, the petitioner failed to submit competent evidence of its ability to pay the proffered wage as required by 8 C.F.R.204.5(g)(2) for 1996 through 1998. The petitioner failed to establish this ability through audited financial statements, federal tax returns, or annual reports. Instead, the petitioner submitted unaudited financial statements purporting to represent its status for January through March 1996, January through June 30, 1997, and January through September 1998.

Although the petitioner's records show that it employed the beneficiary in 1996 and 1998, he received \$5,632 and \$580 less than the proffered wage, respectively.

Based on the evidence submitted, it cannot be found that the petitioner had sufficient funds available to pay the beneficiary the proffered wage at the time of filing the application for alien employment certification as required by 8 C.F.R. § 204.5(g)(2). Therefore, the petition may not be approved.

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 sustained that burden.

ORDER: The AAO's decision of May 29, 2002, is affirmed. The petition is denied.