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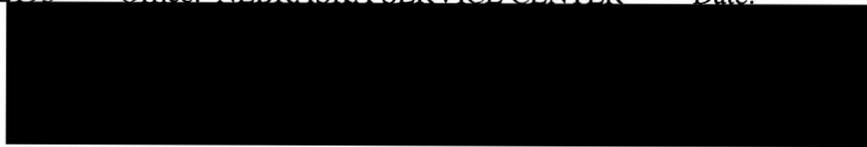


B6

JAN 30 2007

FILE: LIN-05-031-52193 Office: NEBRASKA SERVICE CENTER Date:

IN RE: Petitioner:  
Beneficiary:



PETITION: 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 of the Administrative Appeals Office 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.

Robert P. Wiemann, Chief  
Administrative Appeals Office

**DISCUSSION:** The preference visa petition was denied by the Director, Nebraska Service Center, and is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal. The appeal will be sustained. The petition will be approved.

The petitioner is a health care facility for handicapped children. It seeks to employ the beneficiary permanently in the United States as a “Disability Recreational Therapist (DOT: 076.124-014; OES 29-1125).” A Form ETA 750, Application for Alien Employment Certification approved by the Department of Labor, accompanied the petition. The director determined that the petitioner had not established that the beneficiary had the training required to qualify as a skilled worker for the offered position, and denied the petition accordingly.

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.

A labor certification is an integral part of this petition, but the issuance of a Form ETA 750 does not mandate the approval of the relating petition. To be eligible for approval, a beneficiary must have all the education, training, and experience specified on the labor certification as of the petition’s priority date. 8 C.F.R. § 103.2(b)(1), (12). See *Matter of Wing’s Tea House*, 16 I&N Dec. 158 (Comm. 1977). The priority date is the date the Form ETA 750 was accepted for processing by any office within the employment system of the Department of Labor. See 8 C.F.R. § 204.5(d). The priority date in the instant petition is August 18, 2003.

The I-140 petition was submitted on November 12, 2004. On the petition, in Part 2, Petition type, the petitioner checked box “e” for “A skilled worker (requiring at least two years of specialized training or experience) or professional.” (I-140 petition, Part 2). In Part 5 of the petition, Additional information about the petitioner, the petitioner claimed to have been established in 1975, to currently have 140 employees, to have a gross annual income of “+\$20 Million,” and to have a net annual income of “+\$889,000.” (I-140 petition, Part 5). With the petition, the petitioner submitted supporting evidence.

In a decision dated February 15, 2005, the director determined that the offered position requires the services of a skilled worker and that the beneficiary lacked two years of education or training relevant to the offered position. The director accordingly denied the petition.

On appeal, counsel submits a brief and submits no additional evidence. Counsel also submits duplicate copies of documents previously submitted for the record.

Counsel states on appeal that the beneficiary’s post-secondary education includes a Bachelor’s degree in Nutrition, a field which counsel states is relevant to the position indicated in this petition, following the reasoning of previous decisions of the AAO.

The AAO reviews appeals on a *de novo* basis. See *Dorr v. I.N.S.* 891 F.2d 997, 1002, n. 9 (2d Cir. 1989). The AAO considers all pertinent evidence in the record, including any new evidence properly submitted on appeal.

The regulation at 8 C.F.R. § 204.5(g)(1) states in pertinent part:

Evidence relating to qualifying experience or training shall be in the form of letter(s) from current or former employer(s) or trainer(s) and shall include the name, address, and title of the writer, and a specific description of the duties performed by the alien or of the training received. If such evidence is unavailable, other documentation relating to the alien's experience or training will be considered.

To determine whether a beneficiary is eligible for an employment-based immigrant visa as set forth above, Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS) must examine whether the alien's credentials meet the requirements set forth in the labor certification. The Application for Alien Employment Certification, Form ETA-750A, blocks 14 and 15, sets forth the minimum education, training and experience that an applicant must have for the position of Disability Recreational Therapist. On the ETA 750A submitted with the instant petition, blocks 14 and 15 describe the requirements of the offered position as follows:

- |     |                              |                    |
|-----|------------------------------|--------------------|
| 14. | Education (number of years)  |                    |
|     | Grade School                 | 8                  |
|     | High School                  | 4                  |
|     | College                      | 2                  |
|     | College Degree Required      | Associate Degree** |
|     | Major Field of Study         | Any field          |
|     | Training - yrs               | n/a                |
|     | Experience                   |                    |
|     | Job Offered                  | Yrs 0              |
|     | Related Occupation           | Yrs 0              |
|     | Related Occupation (specify) | None               |
| 15. | Other Special Requirements   | None               |
- \*\* U.S. Assoc Degree -or- Foreign Academic Equivalent -or- Employer will accept a combination of education and/or work experience in lieu of formal education that has been evaluated to be equivalent to a U.S. Assoc degree.

The beneficiary states his or her qualifications on Form ETA 750B. On the ETA 750B submitted with the instant petition, in block 11, for information on the names and addresses of schools, colleges and universities attended (including trade or vocational training facilities), the beneficiary states the following:

Schools, Colleges and Universities, etc.	Field of Study	From	To	Degrees or Certificates Received
[REDACTED] New York, NY	Credential Evaluation			U S Equivalent
University of Santo Tomas Manila, Philippines	Nutrition Dietetics	06/1983	04/1987	B.S. in Nutrition & Dietetics
Professional Regulation Commission Republic of the Philippines	Nutrition		09/1987	Certificate

[remaining rows blank]

On the ETA 750B submitted with the instant petition, in block 15, for information on the beneficiary's work experience the beneficiary states the following:

Name and Address of Employer	Name of Job	From	To	Kind of Business
City Government of Malolos Malolos, Bulacan Philippines	Nutrition Officer III	01/1990	Present	City Government Health Office

[remaining rows blank]

The regulation at 8 C.F.R. § 204.5(1)(2) states in pertinent part:

*Definitions.* As used in this part:

*Skilled worker* means an alien who is capable, at the time of petitioning for this classification, 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. Relevant post-secondary education may be considered as training for the purposes of this provision.

Copies of three AAO decisions submitted with the petition discuss the portion of the regulatory definition of skilled worker which states, "Relevant post-secondary education may be considered as training for the purposes of this provision." 8 C.F.R. § 204.5(1)(2). Each of those decisions was issued on July 9, 2004. In those decisions, the AAO discusses the meaning of the word "relevant" in the foregoing definition and states, "for a beneficiary's post secondary education to be considered it must be logically related and have appreciable probative value as to the capacity of the beneficiary to perform the job duties on the basis of the educational qualifications alone." (AAO decision in LIN-03-110-55083, at 6). The AAO's reasoning was

based on the definition of the term “relevant” found in Black’s Law Dictionary, a definition which appears to address the meaning of that term as it relates to evidentiary questions. (AAO decision in LIN-03-110-55083, at 6, *quoting* Black’s Law Dictionary 1293 (7<sup>th</sup> ed. 1999)).

None of the three cases submitted by the petitioner has been published as a precedent case. While 8 C.F.R. § 103.3(c) provides that precedent decisions of CIS are binding on all its employees in the administration of the Act, unpublished decisions are not similarly binding. Precedent decisions must be designated and published in bound volumes or as interim decisions. 8 C.F.R. § 103.9(a). Nonetheless, the analysis in the three decisions submitted by the petitioner of the skilled worker definition in the regulation at 8 C.F.R. § 204.5(l)(2) is reasonable.

Two of the decisions state that study “in various fields of health care” would be sufficient to qualify as relevant post-secondary education for the position of developmental disability specialist. (AAO decisions in LIN-03-067-51563, at 8, and in LIN-03-110-55083, at 8). The other AAO decision finds that the beneficiary’s education in the field of medicine is sufficient for that occupation. (AAO decision in LIN-03-072-51157, at 7). The latter decision also states the following:

The AAO is not suggesting that a post-secondary education other than a medical degree is not relevant as a number of other fields would have a substantial connection to the duties of a Developmental Disability Specialist as set forth in the ETA 750. Among the post secondary education likely to have such a connection would be areas of study involving teaching, various fields of health care, occupational training, or therapy.

(AAO decision in LIN-03-072-51157, at 8, fn. 5).

In the instant I-140 petition, the ETA 750 specifies the following duties for the position of Disability Recreational Therapist:

Organize and direct medically approved recreation program for patients in pediatric mental retardation facility. Direct and organize activities to implement a continuous active treatment program for mentally and physically handicapped resident children to enable each individual to function as independently as possible and prevent skill regression. Regulate content of programs in accordance with patients’ capabilities, needs and interests. Prepare progress charts and periodic reports to keep other members of the treatment staff fully apprized of patients developmental history.

(ETA 750, Part A, block 13).

In his February 15, 2005 decision, the director determined that the offered position requires the services of a skilled worker and that the petitioner had not established that the beneficiary had the training required to qualify as a skilled worker for the offered position, and denied the petition accordingly.

Based on the evidence in the record, the director’s decision to deny the petition was incorrect.

The job duties described in the ETA 750 for the position of Disability Recreational Therapist are those of a skilled worker. The ETA 750 was certified by the Department of Labor with those job duties. The Department of Labor’s job title for the occupation is “Recreational Therapist.” The public Internet Web site of the Occupational Information Network contains information developed in coordination with the U.S. Department of Labor. The

summary report for the job category “29-1125.00 – Recreational Therapists” classifies this job category as “Job Zone Four: Considerable Preparation Needed.” The report states the following requirements for overall experience: “A minimum of two to four years of work-related skill, knowledge, or experience is needed for these occupations.” The report states the following requirements for job training: “Employees in these occupations usually need several years of work-related experience, on-the-job training, and/or vocational training.” The report states a Specific Vocational Preparation (SVP) Range of “7.0 to <8.0.” Occupational Information Network, *O\*Net OnLine, Summary Report for : 29-1125.00 – Recreational Therapists*, <http://online.onetcenter.org/link/summary/29-1125.00> (accessed November 21, 2006). The minimum SVP of 7.0 is the same as that for the position of developmental disability specialist, which is discussed above in the decision of the AAO in LIN-03-110-55083, which states that an SVP of 7 corresponds to a job which requires from two to four years of experience. (AAO decision in LIN-03-110-55083, at 10).

The offered position in the instant petition is not developmental disability specialist, but rather disability recreational therapist. Nonetheless, the job duties for the two positions contain many similarities. The position of developmental disability specialist includes the following duties, among others: “To develop and implement a continuous active treatment program for each profoundly mentally and physically handicapped resident to enable each individual to function as independently as possible and prevent skill regression.” (AAO decision in LIN-03-110-55083, at 5, *quoting* ETA 750 in that petition). The position of disability recreational therapist includes the following duties, among others: “Organize and direct medically approved recreation program for patients in pediatric mental retardation facility. Direct and organize activities to implement a continuous active treatment program for mentally and physically handicapped resident children to enable each individual to function as independently as possible and prevent skill regression.” (ETA 750 in the instant petition, block 13.)

The record contains a copy of a diploma from the University of Santo Tomas, Manila, Philippines, granting the beneficiary a Bachelor of Science in Nutrition and Dietetics, with an accompanying course transcript.

The record also contains a copy of an academic evaluation for the beneficiary b and Consulting, New York, New York dated July 16, 2003.

The beneficiary’s course transcript from University of Santo Tomas shows many courses relevant to the offered position, including Biology, Basic Foods, Physical Education, Organic Chemistry, Basic Nutrition, General Psychology, Anatomy & Physiology, Biochemistry, Food Standards San./Hygiene, Nutrition in the Life Cycle, Diet Therapy, Principles of Teaching, Marriage and Family Relations, Elementary Statistics, Supervised Field Experience - Hospital, and other nutrition courses, as well as general education courses.

The academic evaluation by [REDACTED] and Consulting finds that the beneficiary’s degree from the University of Santo Tomas is equivalent to a Bachelor of Science in Nutrition degree from an accredited institution of higher education in the United States.

CIS may, in its discretion, use as advisory opinions statements submitted as expert testimony. However, where an opinion is not in accord with other information or is in any way questionable, CIS is not required to accept or may give less weight to that evidence. *Matter of Caron International*, 19 I&N Dec. 791 (Comm. 1988). In the instant petition, the academic evaluation by [REDACTED] and Consulting appears to be a reasonable evaluation of the beneficiary’s academic qualifications. Moreover, the field of Nutrition is sufficiently relevant to the offered position of Disability Recreational Therapist to qualify as training for that position.

As noted above, to be eligible for approval, a beneficiary must have all the education, training, and experience specified on the labor certification as of the petition's priority date. 8 C.F.R. § 103.2(b)(1), (12). *See Matter of Wing's Tea House*, 16 I&N Dec. 158 (Comm. 1977); *Matter of Katigbak*, 14 I&N Dec. 45, 49 (Comm. 1971). The evidence in the record is sufficient to establish that the beneficiary had at least two years of post-secondary education which was relevant to the position of Disability Recreational Therapist as of the priority date.

For the foregoing reasons, the assertions of counsel on appeal are sufficient to overcome the decision of the director concerning the education of the beneficiary.

In his decision, the director did not discuss the issue of the petitioner's ability to pay the proffered wage. An application or petition that fails to comply with the technical requirements of the law may be denied by the AAO even if the Service Center does not identify all of the grounds for denial in the initial decision. *See Spencer Enterprises, Inc. v. United States*, 299 F. Supp. 2d 1025, 1043 (E.D. Cal. 2001), *aff'd*, 345 F.3d 683 (9th Cir. 2003); *see also Dor v. INS*, 891 F.2d 997, 1002 n. 9 (2d Cir. 1989)(noting that the AAO reviews appeals on a de novo basis).

The regulation at 8 C.F.R. § 204.5(g)(2) states:

*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. In a case where the prospective United States employer employs 100 or more workers, the director may accept a statement from a financial officer of the organization which establishes the prospective employer's ability to pay the proffered wage. In appropriate cases, additional evidence, such as profit/loss statements, bank account records, or personnel records, may be submitted by the petitioner or requested by [Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS)].

The petitioner must demonstrate the continuing ability to pay the proffered wage beginning on the petition's priority date, which is the date the Form ETA 750 was accepted for processing by any office within the employment system of the Department of Labor. *See* 8 C.F.R. § 204.5(d). The priority date in the instant petition is August 18, 2003. The proffered wage as stated on the Form ETA 750 is \$7.64 per hour, which amounts to \$15,891.20 annually.

It may be noted that it has been more than three years since the Application for Alien Employment Certification was accepted and the proffered wage established. The employer certification that is part of the application states, "The wage offered equals or exceeds the prevailing wage and I [the employer] guarantee that, if a labor certification is granted, the wage paid to the alien when the alien begins work will equal or exceed the prevailing wage which is applicable at the time the alien begins work." (ETA Form 750 Part A, Section 23 b).

The petitioner must establish that its job offer to the beneficiary is a realistic one. Because the filing of an ETA 750 labor certification application establishes a priority date for any immigrant petition later based on the ETA 750, the petitioner must establish that the job offer was realistic as of the priority date and that the offer remained realistic for each year thereafter, until the beneficiary obtains lawful permanent residence. The

petitioner's ability to pay the proffered wage is an essential element in evaluating whether a job offer is realistic. *See Matter of Great Wall*, 16 I&N Dec. 142 (Acting Reg. Comm. 1977). *See also* 8 C.F.R. § 204.5(g)(2). In evaluating whether a job offer is realistic, CIS requires the petitioner to demonstrate financial resources sufficient to pay the annual amount of the beneficiary's wages, although the totality of the circumstances affecting the petitioning business will be considered if the evidence warrants such consideration. *See Matter of Sonogawa*, 12 I&N Dec. 612 (Reg. Comm. 1967).

In determining the petitioner's ability to pay the proffered wage CIS will first examine whether the petitioner employed the beneficiary at the time the priority date was established. If the petitioner establishes by documentary evidence that it employed the beneficiary at a salary equal to or greater than the proffered wage, this evidence will be considered prima facie proof of the petitioner's ability to pay the proffered wage. In the instant case, on the Form ETA 750B, signed by the beneficiary on July 12, 2003 the beneficiary did not claim to have worked for the petitioner and no other evidence in the record indicates that the beneficiary has worked for the petitioner.

If the instant petition were the only petition filed by the petitioner, the petitioner would be required to produce evidence of its ability to pay the proffered wage to the single beneficiary of the instant petition. However, where a petitioner has filed multiple petitions for multiple beneficiaries which have been pending simultaneously, the petitioner must produce evidence that its job offers to each beneficiary are realistic, and therefore that it has the ability to pay the proffered wages to each of the beneficiaries of its pending petitions, as of the priority date of each petition and continuing until the beneficiary of each petition obtains lawful permanent residence. *See Matter of Great Wall*, 16 I&N Dec. 142, 144-145 (petitioner must establish ability to pay as of the date of the Form MA 7-50B job offer, the predecessor to the Form ETA 750). *See also* 8 C.F.R. § 204.5(g)(2).

CIS electronic records show that the petitioner has filed a total of 302 I-140 petitions since 1996. The great majority of those petitions have been filed since 2002. The number of I-140 petitions filed was 4 in 1996, 9 in 1997, 2 in 1998, 5 in 1999, 7 in 2000, 11 in 2001, 56 in 2002, 125 in 2003, 66 in 2004, 5 in 2005, and 12 in 2006, through August 22, 2006.

As noted above, the instant petition was filed on November 12, 2004. During the year 2004 the petitioner filed a total of sixty-six I-140 petitions, including the instant petition.

Even if a petition has been withdrawn by the petitioner, the petitioner has the right to substitute a new beneficiary on an ETA 750 labor certification application by filing a new I-140 petition, supported by a new ETA 750B for the new beneficiary. The ETA 750's underlying any withdrawn petitions remain valid, with the same priority dates. Memo. from Luis G. Crocetti, Associate Commissioner, Immigration and Naturalization Service, to Regional Directors, *et al.*, Immigration and Naturalization Service, *Substitution of Labor Certification Beneficiaries*, at 3, [http://ows.doleta.gov/dmstree/fm/fm96/fm\\_28-96a.pdf](http://ows.doleta.gov/dmstree/fm/fm96/fm_28-96a.pdf) (March 7, 1996); *see* Charles Gordon, Stanley Mailman & Stephen Yale-Loehr, *Immigration Law and Procedure*, vol. 4, § 43.04 (Mathew Bender & Company, Inc. 2004) (available at "LexisNexis" Mathew Bender Online). Therefore the certified ETA 750's underlying any withdrawn petitions retain potential relevance to the petitioner's total proffered wage commitments for a given year. Similarly, for any petitions which have been denied, the underlying approved ETA 750 would remain available for a new I-140 petition for the same beneficiary or for a substituted beneficiary, provided that the reason for the earlier I-140 denial was one which could be cured by a new petition for same beneficiary, or for a substituted beneficiary.

CIS electronic records do not show the priority dates of all petitions filed by the petitioner. The priority date of the instant petition is August 18, 2003, which is about one year and three months earlier than the November 12, 2004 date on which the I-140 petition was filed.

CIS electronic records do not contain sufficient information on priority dates on which to base estimates of the effect of multiple petitions beginning with each petition's priority date. Therefore an estimate of the total wage commitment the petitioner for multiple petitions will be made beginning in the year of the I-140 filing, which in the instant petition is 2004.

The record in the instant case contains no direct information about the proffered wages for the beneficiaries of the other petitions submitted by the petitioner. The petitioner has submitted no list of proffered wages for each of the beneficiaries of the other I-140 petitions it has filed. The proffered wage as stated on the ETA 750 in the instant petition is \$7.64 per hour. As noted above, an hourly wage of \$7.64 for a 40-hour work week is equivalent to an annual wage of \$15,891.20.

In the year 2004 the petitioner filed sixty-six I-140 petitions, including the instant petition. At an estimated annual proffered wage level of \$15,891.20 for each beneficiary, sixty-six I-140 petitions would result in a total estimated proffered wage commitment of \$1,048,819.20 for the I-140 petitions filed in the year 2004.

The instant I-140 petition states that the petitioner was formed in 1975 and employs "140\*" employees. (I-140 petition, Part 5). The regulation at 8 C.F.R. § 204.5(g)(2) states that where a petitioner employs 100 or more workers, the director may accept a statement from a financial officer of the organization which establishes the prospective employer's ability to pay the proffered wage. In the instant petition, however, the petitioner has submitted no statement from a financial officer of the petitioner.

As another means of determining the petitioner's ability to pay the proffered wage, CIS will next examine the petitioner's net income figure as reflected on the petitioner's federal income tax return for a given year, without consideration of depreciation or other expenses. Reliance on federal income tax returns as a basis for determining a petitioner's ability to pay the proffered wage is well established by judicial precedent. *Elatos Restaurant Corp. v. Sava*, 632 F. Supp. 1049, 1054 (S.D.N.Y. 1986) (citing *Tongatapu Woodcraft Hawaii, Ltd. v. Feldman*, 736 F.2d 1305 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1984)); see also *Chi-Feng Chang v. Thornburgh*, 719 F. Supp. 532 (N.D. Tex. 1989); *K.C.P. Food Co., Inc. v. Sava*, 623 F. Supp. 1080 (S.D.N.Y. 1985); *Ubeda v. Palmer*, 539 F. Supp. 647 (N.D. Ill. 1982), *aff'd.*, 703 F.2d 571 (7<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1983). In *K.C.P. Food Co., Inc.*, the court held that the Immigration and Naturalization Service, now CIS, had properly relied on the petitioner's net income figure, as stated on the petitioner's corporate income tax returns, rather than the petitioner's gross income. 623 F. Supp. at 1084.

Several documents in the record indicate that the legal name of the petitioner is [REDACTED]. A document in the record titled Organizational Overview states that [REDACTED], is a tax exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. According to the Organizational Overview the petitioner was incorporated in Indiana in December 1988, and it owns and operates three skilled nursing-pediatrics facilities in Illinois and one such facility in Indiana. One of the facilities in Illinois is [REDACTED] which is the trade name which appears as part of the petitioner's name in the instant petition. The Organizational Overview also describes a second corporation [REDACTED]. It states that [REDACTED] Inc., is also incorporated under the laws of the State of Indiana, and that it owns and operates three skilled nursing geriatric facilities in Indiana and that it has a lease for the operation of another healthcare facility in Indiana.

The record in the instant case does not contain copies of the petitioner's tax returns, but it does contain copies of audited financial statements. Audited financial statements are among the forms of acceptable evidence stated in

the regulation at 8 C.F.R. § 204.5(g)(2). The audited financial statements in the record are combined statements of the petitioner and of another corporation, [REDACTED]. Notes to the audit report accompanying the statements state that both corporations are among eight subordinate obligated group companies of [REDACTED] and that members of the board of directors of [REDACTED] also serve on the boards of directors of the subordinate obligated entities, in some cases with other individuals.

The combined financial statements of the petitioner and of [REDACTED] are for the years ended June 30, 2003 and June 3, 2004. The audit report accompanying the financial statements for the latter year is dated August 25, 2004. The instant petition was filed on November 12, 2004. The audited financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2004 are therefore the most recent statements available as of the date on which the I-140 petition was filed.

Most portions of the combined financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2003 and June 30, 2004 present combined financial information for the petitioner and for [REDACTED], with no separate figures for each corporation. However, sections of the financial statements titled supplemental information contain statements on income and expenses and balance sheets which present information separately for each corporation.

The income and expense statements of the petitioner show the information in the following table.

Year ending	Net income	Wage increases needed to pay the proffered wage	Surplus or deficit
6/30/03	\$1,225,798.00	not applicable	not applicable
6/30/04	\$1,612,084.00	\$1,048,819.20*	\$563,264.80

\* The estimated total proffered wage commitments of the petitioner for the sixty-six I-140 petitions submitted in 2004, including the instant petition.

The above information is sufficient to establish the petitioner's ability to pay the proffered wage in the year 2004.

Calculations based on the balance sheet information for the petitioner for the years ended June 30, 2003 and June 30, 2004 yield the amounts for year-end net current assets as shown in the following table.

Year ending	Net current assets	Wage increase needed to pay the proffered wage	Surplus or deficit
6/30/03	\$5,793,797.00	not applicable	not applicable
6/30/04	\$2,136,973.00	\$1,048,819.20*	\$1,088,153.80

\* The estimated total proffered wage commitments of the petitioner for the sixty-six I-140 petitions submitted in 2004, including the instant petition.

The information on the petitioner's net current assets as of June 30, 2004 provides further evidence to establish the petitioner's ability to pay the proffered wage in the year 2004.

As noted above, CIS electronic records do not contain sufficient information on priority dates on which to base estimates of the effect of multiple petitions beginning with each petition's priority date. Nonetheless, the substantial net income and substantial net current assets of the petitioner for its fiscal year ending June 30, 2003 indicate that the petitioner had the ability to pay the proffered wage in the year 2003, which is the year of the priority date in the instant petition.

In summary, the assertions of counsel on appeal are sufficient to overcome the decision of the director concerning the beneficiary's qualifications. Moreover, the evidence in the record is sufficient to establish the petitioner's ability to pay the proffered wage as of the priority date and continuing until the beneficiary obtains lawful permanent residence.

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 met that burden.

**ORDER:** The appeal is sustained. The petition is approved.