



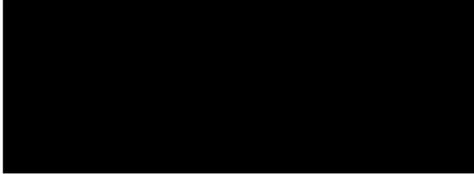
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U.S. Department of Justice

Immigration and Naturalization Service

Identification data omitted to prevent clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy

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



File: EAC-00-247-52748 Office: Vermont Service Center

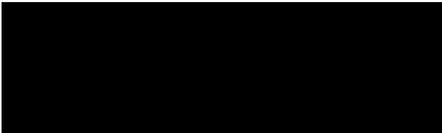
Date: 5 FEB 2002

IN RE: Petitioner:  
Beneficiary:



Petition: Petition for a Nonimmigrant Worker Pursuant to Section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b)

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, Director  
Administrative Appeals Office

**DISCUSSION:** The nonimmigrant visa petition was denied by the director and is now before the Associate Commissioner for Examinations on appeal. The appeal will be sustained.

The petitioner is an international information technology solutions provider with 13 employees and a gross annual income of \$1 million. It seeks to employ the beneficiary as a management systems analyst for a period of three years. The director determined the petitioner had not established that the beneficiary is qualified to perform the duties of a specialty occupation.

On appeal, counsel submits a brief.

Section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), 8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b), provides in part for nonimmigrant classification to qualified aliens who are coming temporarily to the United States to perform services in a specialty occupation. Section 214(i)(1) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. 1184(i)(1), defines a "specialty occupation" as an occupation that requires theoretical and practical application of a body of highly specialized knowledge, and attainment of a bachelor's or higher degree in the specific specialty (or its equivalent) as a minimum for entry into the occupation in the United States.

Pursuant to section 214(i)(2) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. 1184(i)(2), to qualify as an alien coming to perform services in a specialty occupation the beneficiary must hold full state licensure to practice in the occupation, if such licensure is required to practice in the occupation. In addition, the beneficiary must have completed the degree required for the occupation, or have experience in the specialty equivalent to the completion of such degree and recognition of expertise in the specialty through progressively responsible positions relating to the specialty.

The director denied the petition because the beneficiary's degree in commerce is unrelated to the specialty occupation. The director further found that the record contains no evidence of the beneficiary having any computer-related employment experience. On appeal, counsel states, in part, that the combination of the beneficiary's educational background, computer training, and relevant employment experience, qualify him for the proffered position. Counsel submits expert opinions in support of his argument.

Pursuant to 8 C.F.R. 214.2(h)(4)(iii)(C), to qualify to perform services in a specialty occupation, the alien must meet one of the following criteria:

1. Hold a United States baccalaureate or higher degree required by the specialty occupation from an accredited college or university;
2. Hold a foreign degree determined to be equivalent to a United States baccalaureate or higher degree required by the specialty occupation from an accredited college or university;
3. Hold an unrestricted State license, registration, or certification which authorizes him or her to fully practice the specialty occupation and be immediately engaged in that specialty in the state of intended employment; or
4. Have education, specialized training, and/or progressively responsible experience that is equivalent to completion of a United States baccalaureate or higher degree in the specialty occupation and have recognition of expertise in the specialty through progressively responsible positions directly related to the specialty.

The beneficiary holds a baccalaureate degree in commerce conferred by an Indian institution. A credentials evaluation service found the beneficiary's foreign education equivalent to the completion of three years of academic studies leading to a baccalaureate degree from an accredited U.S. institution of higher education. In addition, two academic experts found that beneficiary's foreign education equivalent to the completion of three years toward a baccalaureate-level degree in business, management, and commerce from an accredited U.S. institution of higher learning. Accordingly, it is concluded that the petitioner has not demonstrated that the beneficiary is qualified to perform services in a specialty occupation based upon education alone.

The beneficiary also completed a two-year program in software technology and systems management program as well as a computer science course consisting of 480 contact hours at Indian institutions. The beneficiary additionally had two years of relevant employment experience at the time the visa petition was filed. A credentials evaluation service found the beneficiary's foreign education, training, and employment experience equivalent to a bachelor of science degree in management information systems. Two academic experts also found the beneficiary's foreign education, training, and experience equivalent to a bachelor of science degree in management information systems. The evaluations appear reasonable and will be accepted. Accordingly, it is concluded that the petitioner has shown that the beneficiary qualifies to perform the duties of the proffered position.

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 sustained that burden. Accordingly, the appeal will be sustained and the petition will be approved.

**ORDER:** The appeal is sustained. The director's order is withdrawn and the petition is approved.