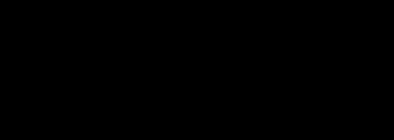


DA

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services

**Identifying data deleted to
prevent clearly unwarranted
invasion of personal privacy**

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



File: EAC-02-133-53404

Office: VERMONT SERVICE CENTER

Date:

JUL 21 2003

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)

ON BEHALF OF PETITIONER:



PUBLIC COPY

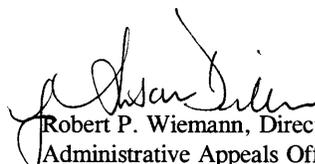
INSTRUCTIONS:

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 the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (Bureau) 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.


Robert P. Wiemann, Director
Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The nonimmigrant visa petition was denied by the director and is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal. The appeal will be sustained.

The petitioner is a hotel restaurant with 76 employees and a gross annual income of \$3.1 million. It seeks to employ the beneficiary as a restaurant manager for a period of three years. The director determined the petitioner had not established that the proffered position is 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 petitioner had not demonstrated that a baccalaureate degree is required for the proffered position. On appeal, counsel states, in part, that the restaurant manager is one of the most important positions in the Wheatleigh, which is a high-level luxury hotel and French restaurant located in the renowned Berkshires. Counsel further states that a bachelor's degree in hotel and restaurant management is normally required for the position, and also for most upscale operations industry wide. Counsel attaches letters from individuals involved in the hotel industry in support of her claim.

In the initial I-129 petition, the petitioner described the duties of the offered position as follows:

The duties of this highly specialized position include: Train, supervise & discipline staff; ensure correct and consistent service techniques for various meal periods; oversee maintenance of materials and supplies and assure their availability; control the usage of all food and beverages [sic] items and the usage of equipment, tools and service equipment; observe daily conditions [sic] of all physical facilities and equipment and make recommendations for corrections and improvements as needed; prepare staff schedules allowing for appropriate service while controlling labor costs & overtime; ensure safe working environment for employees; prepare weekly and daily payroll; prepare revenue and labor reports; handle all monies and keep a bank float; process a guest walk out; be familiar with all food and beverage items offered including ingredients, methods of preparation and proper service; conduct performance evaluations; maintain log for communications between staff and management as well as maintaining effective communication with staff; attend and participate in meetings; promote teamwork and good public relations; handle complaints or concerns of guest[s]; oversee cleanliness of restrooms, restaurant entrance, coatroom, etc.; complete accident report; oversee inventories; utilize computer systems in preparing shift reports; create menus in cooperation with Executive Chef; plan and oversee budget; plan and approve advertising and promotion; oversee banquet services.

Pursuant to 8 C.F.R. § 214.2(h)(4)(iii)(A), to qualify as a specialty occupation, the position must meet one of the following criteria:

1. A baccalaureate or higher degree or its equivalent is normally the minimum requirement for entry into the particular position;
2. The degree requirement is common to the industry in parallel positions among similar organizations or, in the alternative, an employer may show that its particular position is so complex or unique that it can be performed only by an individual with a degree;

3. The employer normally requires a degree or its equivalent for the position; or

4. The nature of the specific duties is so specialized and complex that knowledge required to perform the duties is usually associated with the attainment of a baccalaureate or higher degree.

The proffered position appears to be primarily that of a food service manager. A review of the Department of Labor's *Occupational Outlook Handbook*, 2002-2003 edition, at pages 56-57, finds that a bachelor's degree in restaurant and food service management provides a particularly strong preparation for a career in food service management.

It is noted that not all food service manager positions may be considered specialty occupations. Each position must be evaluated based upon the nature and complexity of the actual duties. In this instance, the duties are of such complexity as to require a baccalaureate degree in a specialized and related area. In view of the foregoing, it is concluded that the petitioner has demonstrated that the proffered position is a specialty occupation within the meaning of the regulations.

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.

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