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

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FILE: EAC 02 120 52753 Office: VERMONT SERVICE CENTER Date: MAR 03 2005

IN RE: Petitioner: [REDACTED]
Beneficiary: [REDACTED]

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:

SELF-REPRESENTED*

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.

for Michael T. Kelly
Robert P. Wiemann, Director
Administrative Appeals Office

* The record contains a G-28, Notice of Entry of Appearance as Attorney or Representative, signed by the attorney Earl S. David. A review of the *List of Disciplined Practitioners* of the U.S. Department of Justice's Executive Office for Immigration Review reflects that Earl S. David was suspended from practice for 15 months effective July 9, 2004.

DISCUSSION: The service center director denied the nonimmigrant visa petition and the matter is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal. The appeal will be dismissed. The petition will be denied.

The petitioner is a media advertising and publishing business that seeks to employ the beneficiary as a market research analyst. The petitioner endeavors to classify the beneficiary as a nonimmigrant worker in a specialty occupation pursuant to § 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b).

The director denied the petition because the beneficiary is not qualified to perform the duties of a specialty occupation. On appeal, the petitioner submits an amended Form I-129, Petition for a Nonimmigrant Worker, with the proffered wage rate. The petitioner also submits a reference letter from the beneficiary's previous employer, Internet job postings for market research analyst positions, a list of courses from the College of Business Administration from the University of North Carolina, a description of a business education course from the New York Institute of Technology, and copies of the previously submitted transcripts and a credentials evaluation for the beneficiary.

The regulation states that the petitioner shall submit additional evidence as the director, in his or her discretion, may deem necessary. The purpose of the request for evidence is to elicit further information that clarifies whether eligibility for the benefit sought has been established, as of the time the petition is filed. See 8 C.F.R. §§ 103.2(b)(8) and (12). The failure to submit requested evidence that precludes a material line of inquiry shall be grounds for denying the petition. 8 C.F.R. § 103.2(b)(14).

The amended Form I-129 reflecting the proffered wage is noted. Also noted is the letter from the beneficiary's previous employer as well as other documentation submitted to demonstrate that the beneficiary is qualified to perform the duties of a specialty occupation. The director's March 5, 2002 Form I-797, Notice of Action, however, specifically requested such information. Where, as here, a petitioner has been put on notice of a deficiency in the evidence and has been given an opportunity to respond to that deficiency, the AAO will not accept evidence offered for the first time on appeal. See *Matter of Soriano*, 19 I&N Dec. 764 (BIA 1988); see also *Matter of Obaigbena*, 19 I&N Dec. 533 (BIA 1988). If the petitioner had wanted the submitted evidence to be considered, it should have submitted the documents in response to the director's request for evidence. *Id.* Under the circumstances, the AAO need not and does not consider the sufficiency of the evidence submitted on appeal. Consequently, the appeal will be dismissed.

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 appeal is dismissed. The petition is denied.