

which is called The Crusader Advanced Field Artillery System Program ("Crusader Program"). Development is being managed by a joint government-industry "integrated product team" that includes the U.S. Army Tank-automotive Armaments Command-Armaments Research, Development and Engineering Center (TACOM-ARDEC), Office of the Project Manager—Crusader (OPM-Crusader), and UDLP as the prime contractor for the Crusader Program. GD is a major subcontractor for the Program. The Army has approved a non-competitive acquisition strategy for the Crusader Program.

Contracts previously have been awarded to DULP for certain initial development phases of the Crusader Program, and additional contracts may be awarded for future phases and stages of the Program. The objectives of the parties' teaming agreement are to identify their respective and mutual roles, obligations and responsibilities pertaining to accomplishment of the Crusader Program. By this agreement, the parties intend to form an exclusive team for all phases and stages of the Crusader Program, including further system development and production, and to pursue Program-related sales to the U.S. Government and international customers. The parties will jointly prepare and submit proposals containing technical, management and cost information for implementation of the Crusader Program. UDLP will continue to perform as prime contractor under any contracts that have been or may be awarded and GD will perform as subcontractor.

Constance K. Robinson,

Director of Operations, Antitrust Division.

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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Drug Enforcement Administration

Manufacturer of Controlled Substances; Notice of Application

Pursuant to section 1301.33(a) of title 21 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), this is notice that on December 27, 1999, Organichem Corporation, 33 Riverside Avenue, Rensselaer, New York 12144, made application by renewal to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) for registration as a bulk manufacturer of the basic classes of controlled substances listed below:

Drug	Schedule
Methylphenidate (1724)	II

Drug	Schedule
Meperidine (9230)	II

The firm plans to manufacture meperidine as bulk product for distribution to its customers and to manufacture methylphenidate for distribution to a customer.

Any other such applicant and any person who is presently registered with DEA to manufacture such substance may file comments or objections to the issuance of the proposed registration.

Any such comments or objections may be addressed, in quintuplicate, to the Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Diversion Control, Drug Enforcement Administration, United States Department of Justice, Washington, D.C. 20537, Attention: DEA Federal Register Representative (CCR), and must be filed no later than May 22, 2000.

March 13, 2000.

John H. King,

Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Diversion Control, Drug Enforcement Administration.

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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Immigration and Naturalization Service

[INS 2049-00]

Information Regarding the H-1B Numerical Limitation for Fiscal Year 2000

AGENCY: Immigration and Naturalization Service, Justice.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice explains how the Immigration and Naturalization Service (the Service/INS) will process H-1B petitions for new employment for the remainder of this fiscal year now that it is clear that the demand for H-1B workers will exceed the statutory numerical limit (the cap) of 115,000 H-1B petitions for Fiscal Year 2000. This notice is published so that the public will understand the Service's procedure for processing H-1B petitions, as the procedure may affect the business decisions of some prospective H-1B petitioners. These procedures are intended to minimize the confusion and burden to employers who use the H-1B program, reduce the administrative burden at the Service Centers, and eliminate the need for employers to inquire about the status of pending H-1B petitions.

This notice also serves to inform the public that the Commissioner of the INS is exercising her authority under 8 CFR 214.2(f)(5)(vi) and (j)(1)(vi) for this fiscal year to extend the duration of stay for certain F and J nonimmigrants (students and exchange visitors) if their employer has filed a timely request for change of nonimmigrant status to that of an H-1B nonimmigrant alien and the petition was filed before October 1, 2000. This measure will prevent a lapse of status for these aliens before the Service is able to act on petitions to change their status.

DATES: This notice is effective March 21, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Tracy Renaud, Adjudications Officer, Immigration Services Division, Immigration and Naturalization Service, 801 I Street, NW, Room 980, Washington, DC 20536, telephone (202) 305-8010.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

What is an H-1B nonimmigrant?

An H-1B nonimmigrant is an alien employed in a specialty occupation or as a fashion model of distinguished merit and ability. A specialty occupation is an occupation that requires theoretical and practical application of a body of specialized knowledge and attainment of a bachelor's or higher degree in the specific specialty as a minimum for admission into the United States.

What is the cap or numerical limitation on the H-1B nonimmigrant classification?

Section 214(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act) provides that the total number of aliens who may be issued H-1B visas or otherwise granted H-1B status during Fiscal Year 2000 may not exceed 115,000. As of February 29, 2000, the Service has recorded 74,300 petitions against the cap for Fiscal Year 2000. As of February 29, 2000, there are more than 45,000 H-1B cap petitions pending at the four Service Centers. Since on average the Service approved 90 percent (90%) of the H-1B petitions it receives, there now appears to be a sufficient number of H-1B petitions pending at the four Service Centers to reach the cap for this fiscal year. Therefore, as of [Date of publication in the **Federal Register**], the Service will reject any petitions requesting a start date prior to October 1, 2000.

What is the effect of this action?

This notice explains the Service's procedure for processing H-1B petitions for new employment that are filed by