

The temporary suspension of H-1B visa premium processing is meant to reduce visa processing backlog

Key information about the H-1B visa premium process suspension

Key date:



April 3, 2017

What's happening:

- The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced on March 3rd it will **temporarily suspend premium processing for H-1B visas starting April 3rd**

What that means for businesses:

- Premium processing allows visa applications to be processed within 15 days following the payment of a \$1,225 fee
- The standard procedure can take three to six months



Why it matters:

- The suspension is meant to help the USCIS **have enough time to process the long-pending petitions** that have been backlogged due to the high volume of premium requests
- The USCIS noted the suspension could last up to six months, but may consider some specific exemptions in cases of severe financial loss, among others