Philippines off the H-2B eligible list again this year

By Kevin Kerrigan - January 22, 2020

The Philippines is off the list of countries eligible to take part in the H-2B program for the second year in a row.

The list of eligible countries was published in the Federal Register last Thursday. The Philippines is again not on it.

According to the statement on the Federal Register, the Secretary of Homeland Security...
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the concurrence of the Secretary of State, have concluded that the Philippines al
Dominican Republic and Ethiopia “should no longer be designated as eligible co
because they no longer meet the regulatory standards” for H-2B eligibility.

It’s the same statement as last year when all three countries were first barred fro1
program. The list remains unchanged from last year.

The Philippines was removed over concerns about human trafficking and comple
jurisdictions that Philippine H-2B workers were staying beyond the term of their \n
However, the impact on Guam is limited said Gregg Massey, the Alien Labor Cerl
administrator at the Guam Department of Labor.

“Keep in mind that we’ve got 1,169 H-2B workers from the Philippines on Guam n
Massey and there are expected to be up to 2,000 on island by the end of this ye

The exemption granted in the 2020 National Defense Authorization Act has allow
contractors to bring in H-2B workers from the Philippines provided that the Defer
Department has certified that they are needed for projects related to the ongoing
buildup on island.

However, Massey said “its extremely difficult” for those employers petitioning for
foreign labor on projects that don’t fall under the NDAA exemption.

“There has been significant progress in getting workers in for military contracts a
associated with the military realignment,” he said but “projects that are not assoc
the military buildup still have an uphill battle.”

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