

https://www.postguam.com/news/local/uscis-now-accepting-applications-for-h--b-buildup-jobs/article_7dbd62ac-12f5-11e8-bff3-eff4781ec1b3.html

USCIS now accepting applications for H-2B buildup jobs

Daily Post Staff Feb 18, 2018



CONSTRUCTION: A crew works on a project in Dededo. The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services announced it is now accepting H-2B petitions for projects related to the military realignment. Post file photo



The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services announced it is now accepting H-2B petitions from employers seeking to hire temporary skilled foreign workers for projects related to the military realignment of U.S. Marines from Okinawa to Guam.

The 2018 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) permits up to 4,000 foreign workers to qualify for an exemption to USCIS' "temporary need" requirement and receive an H-2B visa, as long

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as they are employed in a military or civilian project that is directly related to, or associated with, the Marine relocation.

USCIS was given 120 days to implement that provision of the NDAA.

In a release issued Friday, USCIS said it would begin to accept H-2B applications immediately. The employment start date for any approved application "must be on or after April 11, 2018," the release states.

USCIS on Friday also issued a policy memorandum to guide employers on the rules and requirements in the NDAA that allow a foreign worker to qualify for the NDAA's exemption to the "temporary need" requirement.

Greg Massey, the Alien Labor Processing Division administrator for the Guam Department of Labor, told The Guam Daily Post that the 4,000 "temporary need" cap applies to the 2018 NDAA only. "Guam is still exempt from the national cap of 66,000 workers per year until 2019," he said.

Foreign workers who qualify for an H-2B visa under the NDAA exemption "may be admitted for up to three years, depending on the specific need stated in the H-2B petition," the release states.

In order to qualify for an H-2B visa under the NDAA exemption, Guam employers must prove that the worker they want to hire will be employed in a job "directly connected to, or associated with, the military realignment."

Employers must also comply with all other "H-2B requirements including submission of an approved temporary labor certification issued by Guam's Department of Labor."