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Discrepancy in Visa Appointment Wait Times for U.S. Consulates in India

It has come to our attention that certain U.S. Consulates in India are publishing estimated waiting periods for the scheduling of nonimmigrant work visas that are inconsistent with true wait times. These consular posts include: Calcutta, Mumbai, and New Delhi.

The U.S. State Department publishes estimated visa appointment wait time periods on its website at the following address: http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/wait/tempvisitors_wait.php. The estimates for the specified consular posts reflect a waiting period of only a few weeks for the category titled "All Other Nonimmigrant Visas", which includes work visas such as the H-1B, L-1, and O-1. In reality, the wait period for a work visa appointment at these posts can range from three to six months.

Given this significant disparity, we advise our clients to consult a recently developed website maintained directly by the U.S. Consulates in India which provides a more accurate and up-to-date assessment of visa appointment availability: <http://www.vfs-usa.co.in>. This web service also takes into account recently cancelled appointments.

We hope that this new tool allows for more reliable information and aids our Indian national clients in proper planning for the visa stamp processing.

If you have any questions on this One Minute Memo, please contact your Seyfarth attorney or any Business Immigration attorney on our website at www.seyfarth.com.