

## **BCIC Requests US Government To Have a Relook at the new H-1B Visa Policy**

Bangalore Chamber of Industry and Commerce (BCIC) today said that the new memorandum issued by the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is too protectionist in nature and the US Government should relook at softening the stance to access H-1B work visas to Indian workforce.

The new policy makes it mandatory to ensure a closer scrutiny of computer programmers using H-1B work visas, and ensure that only those programming positions that can qualify as a specialty occupation use these visas.

Mr. Thyagu Valliappa, President BCIC said: The new H-1B Policy will hugely impact our IT/ITEs sector which has been contributing to the US economy for several years now. Its cap and stringent scrutiny measures is too regressive in nature considering the fact, the cream of Indian IT workers work in the US companies. The US Government needs to relook at the policy and allow more H-1B visas."

Companies applying for H-1B visas for computer programming positions will have to submit additional evidence showing that the jobs are complex or specialized and require professional degrees. The memo said the updated guidance is effective immediately, which means it applies to the new visa application season that began on Monday for fiscal 2018.

USCIS issued a notification last week targeting misuse and fraud, wherein they would focus and step up checks and validations of

- Instances where USCIS cannot validate employers' business through commercially available data
- H1B dependent employers - those who have a high ratio of H1B workers compared to US workers
- H1B visa workers who work off site at another company / organisation location

Mr. Thyagu Valliappa further stated: "Since there is over a million jobs vacant in the technology vertical in US, the US Government should allow Indian Tech workers to take those positions without burdening in domestic force."

Meanwhile, given that the policy has been implemented just before the start of H-1B visa application window for FY18 season, it will cause significant confusion for all the applications already lined up," he said.