



Published on *US Immigration Lawyer, Law Offices of Rajiv S. Khanna, PC, Rajiv S. Khanna* (<https://immigration.com>)

Rules for Counting 6 Years of H-1B

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Submitted by Chief Editor on Jun 27th 2017

I got H-1B approval in August 2013 valid from Oct 2013 to Sept 2016. After this, I traveled to the US in August 2014 on H-1B & I am here till now. My question is, till what time I can stay in the USA. I know for H-1B we get 6 years. But will this count my earlier stay on L-1B? For more than 2 years, I didn't enter to the US. Will it be until August 2020 or (August 2020 minus the L1B stay) ?

ANSWER:

Watch the Video on this FAQ: Rules for counting 6 years of H-1B ^[2]

Video Transcript

Any time that you spend on H-1 and L-1 will be counted together. So if you spend two years on L-1B or L-1A you've got four years left on H-1. The second rule is if you go outside the USA for one year the entire period is reset so you could have six years of H-1 back. If you were here on L-1A for seven years, then you went back to your home country stayed there for one year, did not come to the USA and even if you did come for a brief visit and then you have to be out those extra days you came, for example: if you came for 10 days you have to be out for ten days for the clock to be reset. You got your six years of H-1 reset. One thing L-1 is counted towards your H-1 and second thing, if you are outside for one year the period is reset. The next thing you need to know is every day you are outside the USA on H-1 you can recapture every day that you are outside. If you are outside the USA more than six months you get the entire year back More ^[2]

Note: This is a verbatim transcript of the referenced audio/video media delivered as oral communication, and, therefore, may not conform to written grammatical or syntactical form.

Nonimmigrant Visas:

L-1 Visa ^[3]

L-1B Visa ^[4]

L-1A Visa ^[5]

H-1 Visa ^[6]

[General Nonimmigrant Visa](#) [7]

FAQ Transcript:

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Unless the context shows otherwise, all answers here were provided by [Rajiv](#) [8] and were compiled and reported by our editorial team from comments and blog on [immigration.com](#) [9]

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Links:

[1] <https://immigration.com/faq/rules-counting-6-years-h-1b>

[2] <https://youtu.be/UsAOGBy7XyE?t=586>

[3] <https://immigration.com/visa/nonimmigrant-visas/l-visa/l-1-visa>

[4] <https://immigration.com/visa/nonimmigrant-visas/l-visa/l-1-visa/l-1b-visa>

[5] <https://immigration.com/visa/nonimmigrant-visas/l-visa/l-1-visa/l-1a-visa>

[6] <https://immigration.com/visa/nonimmigrant-visas/h-visa/h-1-visa>

[7] <https://immigration.com/visa/nonimmigrant-visas/general-nonimmigrant-visa>

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[9] <http://www.immigration.com>

[10] <https://immigration.com/JavaScript%3Aavoid%280%29%3B>