

BACKLOGS FOR NONIMMIGRANT VISA APPOINTMENTS AT U.S. CONSULATES PERSIST

2 August 2005

For over a year, the United States Department of State has required most applicants for nonimmigrant visas to appear in person at the appropriate U.S. consulate abroad for an interview. The broad imposition of the interview requirement has led to lengthy backlogs for visa appointments at many U.S. Consular posts worldwide, particularly during the peak summer travel season. Persons requiring a visa to enter the United States should plan to check visa appointment backlogs and call the appropriate Consulate to schedule appointments well in advance of the anticipated date of travel to the United States.

As of August 2, 2005, the U.S. Department of State advises of the following backlogs for nonimmigrant visa appointments at some of the highest volume posts worldwide:

Consular Post	Wait for Appointment	Wait for Visa Issuance
Amsterdam	30	2
Beijing	23	Same day
Belfast	28	2
Brasilia	37	1
Chennai	163	2
London	35	3
Melbourne	21	1
Mumbai	67	1
New Delhi	121	2
Oslo	21	1
Paris	37	1
Rio De Janeiro	34	3
Sao Paulo	37	3
Seoul	22	3
Shanghai	45	Same day
Stockholm	36	2
Tokyo	25	2

The wait time for the appointment reflects the number of days between the date of calling to schedule the appointment and the actual appointment date received. At some U.S. Consulates the wait for visitor visas (B visa) appointments is much longer than for other non immigrant visa appointments. As soon as an applicant is aware that he or she will be making a trip to the United States, the applicant should check the U.S. Department of State web site at http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/wait/tempvisitors_wait.php to obtain updated information on visa appointment backlogs.

In appropriate cases, qualifying applicants for “renewal” visas who will require a new visa to enter the United States after international travel may apply for their new visas at a U.S. consular border post in Mexico. In many cases, the same-day turnaround for visa issuance in Mexico is preferable to a lengthy stay abroad awaiting a scheduled appointment and visa issuance at one of the high-volume posts listed on the chart above. Potentially qualified applicants who are interested in visa application at a U.S. Consulate in Mexico should contact their Tindall & Foster immigration attorney for more information on upcoming Tindall & Foster-sponsored visa application trips to Mexico. Additional information may also be found under Item #7 of this Email Bulletin.