



EMAIL BULLETIN

**U.S. CONSULATE IN MATAMOROS ANNOUNCES REQUIREMENT THAT ALL NONIMMIGRANT VISA APPLICATIONS MUST BE COMPLETED ELECTRONICALLY**

*25 October 2006*

The U.S. Consulate in Matamoros, Mexico has announced that the post now requires completion of the Form DS-156 Nonimmigrant Visa Application, and Form DS-157 Supplemental Application electronically. In order to electronically complete a visa application for submission to Matamoros, applicants may visit the post's web site at [http://matamoros.usconsulate.gov/matamoros/tourist\\_business.html](http://matamoros.usconsulate.gov/matamoros/tourist_business.html). The Forms DS-156 and DS-157 are also accessible for electronic completion via the U.S. Department of State web site at <http://evisaforms.state.gov>.

While not all U.S. Consulates have made electronic completion of the Forms DS-156 and DS-157 mandatory, the U.S. Department of State and the various U.S. Embassies and Consulates worldwide prefer that applicants complete these forms electronically in order to ease the data entry process involved in the adjudication of applications. A number of U.S. Consular Posts have gone so far as to declare that no other form of application will be accepted. Most U.S. Embassies and Consulates do not go this far and only advise that manual completion of these forms may delay the visa appointment and issuance process.

In advance of the upcoming holiday travel season, during which backlogs in visa appointment availability and issuance tend to grow, Tindall & Foster, P.C. advises clients to complete the visa application forms on-line whenever possible in order to avoid unnecessary delays during the travel season. For assistance or more information regarding the completion of Forms DS-156 and DS-157 electronically, or regarding the visa application process abroad, please contact your Tindall & Foster immigration attorney. In appropriate cases, your Tindall & Foster immigration attorney will be able to assist you in the completion of the required forms and the collection of the required documents for visa application abroad.