



35th General Assembly of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO)  
September 17 – 22, 2012 | San Diego, California  
Hosted by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI)

**visa guidance**

**A**s one of the world's leading producers of International Standards, the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) is a key player in the development of global markets for a very broad spectrum of subjects.

Each year, a host country organizes a multi-day forum that brings together more than 600 delegates and accompanying persons from ISO's more than 160 member countries. The purpose of this event, known as the ISO General Assembly, is to provide a central venue for the discussions that will shape the direction of ISO's future products, services, and systems.

On September 17 – 22, 2012, the United States, via the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), will play host to the world's standardization community as ANSI welcomes ISO to San Diego, California.

Since ISO's founding in 1947, ANSI has helped to propel ISO's work by representing U.S. interests at the table where ISO standards and policies are developed. ANSI serves as the focal point for U.S. parties interested in ISO standards development, and as the nation's representative to the ISO for all U.S. technical and policy contributions.





## visa application guidance for meetings in the USA

Thank you for your interest in traveling to the U.S. to participate in the 35th General Assembly of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO).

The U.S. visa application process is significantly different than the process in many other countries. This guidance is intended for delegates planning to attend U.S.-hosted meetings to more clearly understand the process for application.

## step one: be informed



We urge you to carefully review all the information on procedures for non-immigrant visa application provided by the U.S. State Department. The following online location provides an official source of information about U.S. visa policy and procedures:

[http://travel.state.gov/visa/visa\\_1750.html](http://travel.state.gov/visa/visa_1750.html)

Please follow all instructions provided on the website for your local U.S. Embassy or Consulate General website to avoid costly delays.

U.S. visa policy permits citizens of certain countries to travel to the U.S. without a visa. For information about whether you may require a visa, please find such information at the following location online:

[http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/without/without\\_1261.html](http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/without/without_1261.html)

Your application must be submitted through the U.S. Embassy or Consulate General that has jurisdiction over your place of residence. The following is a link to the list of all U.S. Embassies and Consulates worldwide: <http://www.usembassy.gov/>

## step two: apply early



Due to potentially long wait times for a visa interview and possible requirements for additional processing, applicants are encouraged to submit their visa applications as early as possible – no less than 30 days and ideally at least 90 days in advance of the intended travel (for ISO 2012, that equates to at minimum prior to August 15, or ideally prior to June 15, 2012). Wait times for a visa interview can range from a few days to several months, depending on location and time of year.

Applicants who are engaged in certain sensitive scientific or technical fields may be subject to additional administrative processing procedures, which can add additional time to the visa application procedures, in some cases up to 120 days.

### step three: be prepared



Applicants for U.S. visas should come to the visa interview with a thorough understanding of their travel plans and logistics. They should bring their invitation letter, copies of meeting agendas, travel itineraries and other documents on official letterhead, as well as documentation to help demonstrate “strong ties” to their home country. For information on what constitutes “strong ties,” visit: [http://travel.state.gov/visa/frvi/denials/denials\\_1361.html](http://travel.state.gov/visa/frvi/denials/denials_1361.html)

To obtain an invitation letter, please e-mail the ANSI contact person listed at right, providing the following information: name (LAST, first, middle), organization, complete postal address (including country), date of birth (MM/DD/YYYY), passport number and issuing country, e-mail address, the meeting you are planning to attend, and the dates and location of the meeting.

### step four: inform ANSI of problems early



Should you encounter any problems in the visa application process, please contact the issuer of your invitation letter as soon as possible. While ANSI has no authority to influence consular decisions, it may be possible to provide guidance on additional steps that could be taken, or otherwise be of assistance.

#### ANSI Contact:

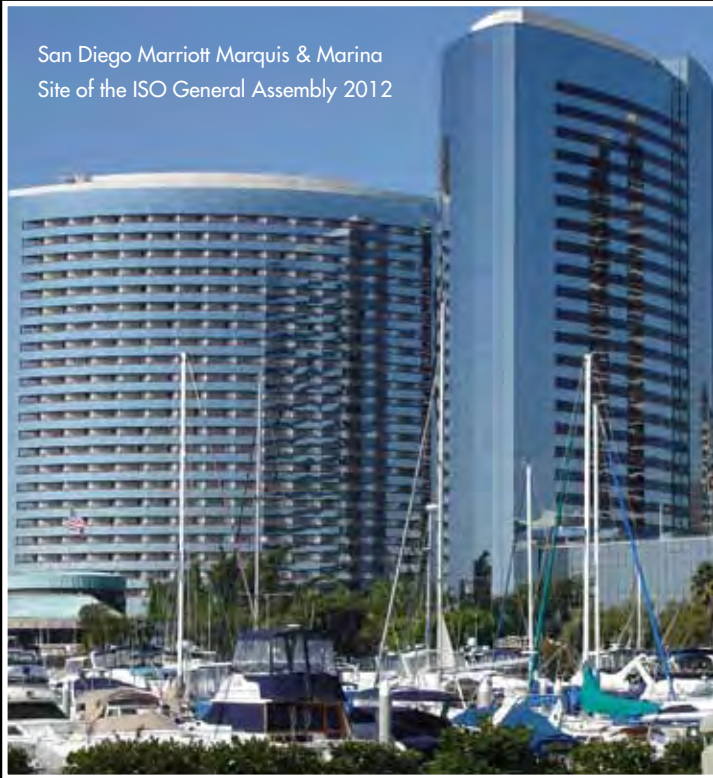
Steven P. Cornish, Senior Director, International Policy

E-mail: [scornish@ansi.org](mailto:scornish@ansi.org)

Tel: +1.212.642.4969



San Diego Marriott Marquis & Marina  
Site of the ISO General Assembly 2012



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**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

Steven P. Cornish  
ANSI Senior Director, International Policy  
25 W. 43rd Street, Fourth Floor  
New York, NY 10036  
T: +1.212.642.4969  
F: +1.212.388.0023  
E: [scornish@ansi.org](mailto:scornish@ansi.org)