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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
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 applications 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
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
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
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 date 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 to see if 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 information that may be of assistance.

ANSI Contact:
Jessica Barnes, Program Administrator
E-mail: isot@ansi.org
Tel: +1.212.642.4946
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**ANSI Contact:**
Steve P. Cornish, Senior Director, International Policy
E-mail: scornish@ansi.org
Tel: +1.212.642.4969
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For more information
Annie Culp
ANSI Senior Director, International Policy
25 W. 31st Street, Fourth Floor
New York, NY 10001
T: +1 212 642 4589
F: +1 212 388 0023
E: iso@ansi.org

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