

## Changes to Visa Processing Requirements for Third Country Nationals in Mexico

U.S. Consulates in Mexico have recently changed requirements for visa applications for Third Country (i.e. non-Mexican) Nationals (TNCs) who are not residents of Mexico. Without advanced notice, significant restrictions on a TCN's ability to apply for a visa at a U.S. consulate in Mexico have been implemented.

The following individuals may not apply for visas to the U.S. at a consulate in Mexico:

- Applicants for B1/2 visas, including renewals
- Applicants who entered the U.S. with a visa issued in their home country and subsequently changed status in the U.S. who now seek a visa in the new category
- Applicants who entered the U.S. in one visa category and are seeking to re-enter the U.S. in a different visa category
- Applicants who have been out of status in the U.S. having violated the terms of their visa or having overstayed the validity indicated on their I-94 cards
- Applicants who entered the U.S. under the Visa Waiver Program
- Applicants who obtained their current visa in a country other than that of their legal residence
- Applicants who were informed when they obtained the original visa in their home country that they would be subject to National Security Entry Exit Registrations (NSEERs) or nationals of North Korea, Cuba, Syria, Sudan or Iran

The following individuals may apply for visas to the U.S. at a consulate in Mexico:

- Applicants seeking to renew their visa in any category except B1/2 (tourist/business), if the initial visa was issued in the applicant's country of former residence
- Applicants seeking to renew their visa in any category except B1/2 (tourist/business), if the initial visa was issued in the applicant's country of former residence AND a subsequent visa was issued by a U.S. consulate in Mexico

Individuals should be aware that certain visa applicants may be subject to additional administrative processing. This may take a couple of weeks delaying the issuance of the visa and the applicant's return to the U.S. While the consulates state that they will work hard to ensure

this processing is completed as soon as possible, they cannot ensure the issuance of a visa by a particular date.

These new requirements represent significant changes to the prior policy relating to visa applications by TNCs. Prospective visa applicants should carefully review the revised requirements and check with the consulate before deciding to travel to Mexico for visa stamping:

<http://mexico.usembassy.gov/eng/edirectory.html>.