



Gr. Columbus Convention Ctr.  
August 25 & 26, 2007  
Columbus, OH USA

## **International Visa Information**

Since the attacks of 9/11/2001 there have been delays in the processing of visa applications for international exhibitors and/or attendees. These delays can mean processing times of three to four months, so it is imperative that all international delegates begin the visa process as soon as possible. Be specific about your arrangements for travel in the U.S., especially regarding the manning of your booth at the Columbus Jewelry Show if you are an exhibitor.

There are a number of items required of all visa applicants including the following:

- Payment of a nonrefundable application fee of \$100 US. Additionally, payment of a visa issuance fee, if applicable.
- Nonimmigrant Visa Application, Form DS-156, completed and signed. Blank forms are available free of charge at all U.S. consular offices or online at: <http://evisaforms.state.gov>
- Valid passport for travel to the United States with a validity date at least six months beyond the applicant's intended period of stay in the United States. If more than one person is included in the passport, each person desiring a visa must make an application.
- One photograph, 2 inches square (roughly 50mm square) for each applicant, showing full face, without head covering, against a white or off-white background, stapled or glued to the application, DS-156, in the designated space.
- Supplemental Nonimmigrant Visa Application, Form DS-157 must be submitted, completed by all male applicants between the ages of 16 and 45, regardless of nationality. All applicants from the countries on the Department of State list of countries that sponsor terrorism must also complete the DS-157. A consular officer can request the form from anyone.
- Support materials indicating the purpose of the visit, that they plan to remain in the U.S. only for a specific, limited period of time and that they have a residence outside the U.S. as well as family, business interests or investments that will insure their return to their country of origin at the conclusion of the visit.

Please note that the Department of State's recommended first source of up-to-date visa information is their Internet site at: <http://www.travel.state.gov> Another useful website is: <http://www.UnitedStatesVisas.gov>

Upon arrival to a U.S. point of entry, visitors will be required to pass through U.S. Immigration, where an officer of the Department of Homeland Security will review the visitor's visa and make a determination on the length of stay. Business travelers entering the USA on a B-1 or other business visitor visa, whether single entry or multiple entry, should share scheduled plans for their stay in the USA with the immigration officer or risk that the immigration official will arbitrarily stamp their entry documentation with a truncated time period. If the visitors shows ticketing and notes that the purpose of the visit is to cover multiple site visits, (trade show plus business appointments, etc.) they should discuss the itinerary with the immigration officer and request permission to stay in the USA long enough to complete their plans.



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A Department of Homeland Security Official can deny entry to an individual even if they have obtained a visa. They can determine and define an approved period for their stay in the USA or they can limit their permission to a period less than their planned itinerary. If a visitor “overstays” the permitted period of visit, they risk losing permission to visit the USA in the future, or a denial of their visa application on a subsequent planned visit.

Since U.S. law places the burden on the visa applicant to show that he/she is not an intending immigrant and that the stated purpose of their trip is legitimate, visitors to U.S. trade shows must demonstrate that intention with appropriate documentation. For example, they must show that the purpose of their trip is to attend and/or exhibit at a trade show. They should have in their possession a personalized letter of invitation from the event organizer to attend the show.

A letter of invitation from the Ohio Jewelers Association, promoter of the Columbus Jewelry Show, can be obtained from the Association office by emailing [cjs@ohioretailmerchants.org](mailto:cjs@ohioretailmerchants.org) with a request. It will need to include the name of each person requesting to travel as well as their passport number and the name and address of the company they will be representing on the show floor. The letter will also need to include the address and fax number of the U.S. Embassy or Consulate where visa application will be made. Exhibitors in good standing, members of the Ohio Jewelers Association, or members of Jewelers of America will receive this service free of charge. All other attendees will be required to pay a \$30. fee in advance to defray the administrative costs of the request. This does NOT guarantee that a visa application will be accepted.

For additional information on obtaining a visa for the Columbus Jewelry Show, please visit the Consulate Section of your closest U.S. Embassy or Consulate or visit the Visa Services website of the Bureau of Consular Affairs, U.S. Department of State.

This information is given as a service only, and is NOT a guarantee of what may be required to obtain a visa for travel to the United States.