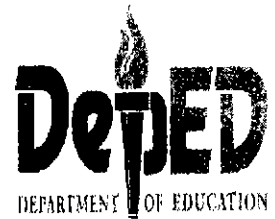




REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
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APR 12 2004

DepED MEMORANDUM
No. **176**, s. 2004

DISSEMINATION OF MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 08-04
(New Electronic Visa Application Form (EVAF) of the US Embassy)

To: Undersecretaries
Assistant Secretaries
Bureau Directors
Regional Directors
Directors of Services/Centers and Heads of Units
Chiefs of Divisions
All Others Concerned

1. For the information and guidance of all concerned, enclosed is a copy of Memorandum Circular No. 08-04 dated March 18, 2004 entitled "New Electronic Visa Application Form (EVAF) of the US Embassy", which is self-explanatory.
2. Immediate dissemination of this Memorandum is desired.

EDILBERTO C. DE JESUS
Secretary

Encl.: As stated
Reference: None
Allotment: 1- -(D.O. 50-97)
To be indicated in the Perpetual Index
under the following subjects:

LEGISLATIONS
OFFICIALS

DRAFT BY: MARICAR/DM-DISS. MC. NO. 08-04
04-05-04

Kagawaran ng Ugnayang Panlabas



Department of Foreign Affairs

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 08-04

SUBJECT: New Electronic Visa Application Form (EVAF) of the US Embassy

TO ALL HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS, GOVERNMENT-OWNED OR CONTROLLED CORPORATIONS AND GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS, PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS AND CITY MAYORS AND ALL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS/EMPLOYEES:

United States (US) Embassy officials informed the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) of a new Electronic Visa Application Form (EVAF) for non-immigrant travelers to the United States. The new EVAF is designed to speed up visa processing by automating data entry at the US Embassy through the Internet. EVAF will be required for use by all nonimmigrant visa applicants beginning 12 April 2004.

All nonimmigrant visa applications submitted by Philippine residents will be accepted only in the EVAF format effective 12 April 2004. After this date, hand-written and typed nonimmigrant visa application will no longer be accepted from Philippine residents of any nationality.

Attached is a Press release issued by the US Embassy containing detailed information on the new EVAF.

The new EVAF can be accessed by logging on to <http://evisaforms.state.gov>. Further information can be obtained at the Embassy web site at <http://www.philippines.usembassy.gov>.


FRANKLIN M. EBDALIN
Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs

Pasay, 12 March 2004

Encl: as stated



Embassy of the United States of America

Manila, Philippines

**NEW ELECTRONIC VISA FORM WILL SPEED
PROCESSING TIME FOR APPLICANTS**

Manila, Feb. 11 -- The United States Embassy is pleased to announce the new Electronic Visa Application Form (EVAF) for non-immigrant travelers to the United States. Designed to speed visa processing by automating data entry at the Embassy, the EVAF will be required for use by all nonimmigrant visa applicants beginning April 12, 2004. Seafarer applicants have been using the form successfully since January 7, 2004. As of February 18, 2004, all drop box applicants and certain priority-interview companies have been required to use the EVAF. The new form must be completed on the Internet and then printed out and submitted to the Embassy in person. We encourage all visa applicants to use the form prior to the mandatory date for its use.

The EVAF is an electronic form available at <http://evisaforms.state.gov> that will make non-immigrant visa processing more efficient for both visa applicants and consular sections. Applicants will complete the DS-156 Nonimmigrant Visa Application online, print the form and a barcode page, and bring these papers along with a completed DS-157 Supplemental Nonimmigrant Visa Application form to the Embassy for their interview. Embassy personnel will scan the barcode to place the information in the computer system. This is similar to price scanners found at checkout counters in grocery stores. The Embassy does not retain or make any other use of data entered on the EVAF. Once an applicant exits the EVAF site, any data entered is no longer available to the applicant, nor is it retained in any database.

Although the U.S. Department of State only recently launched this initiative, the electronic visa application form (EVAF) has already proven to be an effective and popular tool. Already, almost 5% of all applications worldwide are submitted via EVAF, with a much higher proportion at several posts, such as Milan (98%), Osaka/Kobe (77%) and London (53%). In the Philippines, seafaring applicants have already been using the EVAF form successfully for several months.

Effective April 12, 2004, all nonimmigrant visa applications submitted by Philippine residents will be accepted only in the EVAF format. After the deadline, hand-written and typed nonimmigrant visa applications will no longer be accepted from Philippine residents of any nationality.

The U.S. Embassy in Manila encourages visa applicants to benefit from this very efficient and user-friendly form. Please note that only the DS-156 standard application can be completed using EVAF. Applicants must complete the required DS-157 by hand after paying the visa fee at a designated branch of the Bank of the Philippine Islands or Citibank. The DS-157 is then attached to the electronic visa application form and barcode page along with any other supplemental forms. After completing the EVAF and DS-157 (with MRV fee validation at the back), applicants may call the call center to proceed with their nonimmigrant visa application. For further information, please visit <http://www.philippines.usembassy.gov>.

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