

- Press Release -

Embassy Introduces New Online Visa Application Form, the DS-160

On April 20, 2010, U.S. Embassy Rangoon will “Go Live” with the Department of State’s new online non-immigrant visa (NIV) application form, the DS-160. All NIV applicants will be required to fill out the DS-160 at <https://ceac.state.gov/genniv> and submit the application online. (This is a change from the current procedure, which requires applicants to fill out a DS-156 online, print out a hard copy of the application, and submit it with the passport and other application materials.)

Why is the U.S. visa application form changing?

The U.S. State Department's Bureau of Consular Affairs developed the DS-160 web-based NIV application to incorporate all existing NIV applications into one interactive, online form. It replaces the three forms that made up the Electronic Visa Application Form (EVAF).

With demand for U.S. visas continuing to increase worldwide, the Bureau of Consular Affairs is committed to using new technologies to improve the efficiency and accuracy of the visa application process. The DS-160 NIV application takes advantage of new technologies to better serve our visa applicants.

How is this different from the other online form the DS-160 replaced?

Applicants will continue to complete visa application forms on-line, as they did previously with the EVAF. We now provide "pop-up" translations of questions in many widely spoken languages, but the form must still be completed in English. The applicant will print just one confirmation sheet upon completion of the DS-160.

Only the application form has changed. Other parts of the process (making appointments, visa interviews, visa pick-up procedures) will remain the same.

How is this better for applicants?

The new DS-160 form improves the likelihood of collecting required information accurately the first time, saving applicants the trouble of having to return to the U.S. Embassy for successive interviews because information they entered into the

non-immigrant visa application form was incomplete or inaccurate. Customer service surveys at posts that have piloted the use of the DS-160 indicate greater applicant satisfaction with the DS-160 than with the form it replaced. And, because the form is web-based, we have the ability to revise and improve the DS-160 as necessary. We will also have the ability to conduct various forms of pre-processing and pre-screening of the applicant's data in advance of the interview, which should reduce processing delays.

Where can I learn more details the DS-160 and instructions for applying for a U.S. visa?

The U.S. Embassy's website has detailed information about the DS-160 and the non-immigrant visa application process. Please visit it at:

http://burma.usembassy.gov/nonimmigrant_visas.html