



NOTA ÀS REDACÇÕES

Lisbon, April 30, 2013

U.S. Changes Procedures at U.S. Consulate in the Azores and Closes Consular Agency in Madeira

Due to the low level of demand, the U.S. Consulate in Ponta Delgada, Sao Miguel Island, Azores, will cease to provide visa services for visitors to the United States after June 15. We highlight that the U.S. Consulate in Ponta Delgada will remain open and continue to provide services to U.S. citizens for passports, reports of birth and other consular services. Non-immigrant visa services will continue to be available in Lisbon. We note that Portugal is a member of the Visa Waiver Program; the large majority of Portuguese citizens traveling to the United States for a brief stay for tourism or business do not require a visa. For information on those visitors who do require a visa, please consult the Embassy site ([link](#)).

We also note that the U.S. Consular Agency in Funchal, currently providing limited services to U.S. citizens only, will close on June 7 also for reasons relating to the low demand for services. Consular officers from Embassy Lisbon will continue to make periodic visits to Madeira to provide consular services to the American community there.

Regarding the changes to services provided in the Azores, the U.S. Consul in the archipelago, Rafael Perez explained that “in 2012, the Consulate in Ponta Delgada issued only 172 non-immigrant visas, in view of the fact that most Portuguese travel to the United States under the Visa Waiver Program and do not need visas. “ He added that “consular resources are being transferred to busier posts which process over 1,000 visas a day.”

We regret any inconvenience to travelers. The restructuring of consular services in Portugal is due to budgetary considerations which the United States, similar to other countries, currently faces. The Embassy will ensure that information is made widely available on the upcoming changes and will continue to seek to provide the best level of customer service possible to travelers to the United States.