

March 12, 2010

Greetings from the U.S. Mission to Ecuador. The following Warden Message is part of our program to keep American citizens visiting or residing in Ecuador apprised of information that may affect them. We hope you find the following information useful:

Tax time is once again upon us. The good news: Those who are resident overseas receive an automatic extension of the normal April 15 deadline and are allowed to file up to June 15. If you are a U.S. citizen or resident alien, the rules for filing tax returns, other than the deadlines, are generally the same whether you are in the United States or abroad. Your individual circumstances generally determine whether you must file an income tax return. The following Internal Revenue Service (IRS) web page may assist you in determining your filing requirements: [Am I required to file a U.S. tax return?](#)

Ecuador will not be recipient of an IRS representative visit this year, however; the most useful information for taxpayers abroad has been compiled into a single document, titled [Tax Assistance Information for Tax Year 2009 \(Issued January 2010\)](#). Although the document was prepared by the IRS office in Paris, it applies to any American Citizen overseas, including American Citizens in Ecuador. In it, you can find information regarding foreign bank and financial accounts, tax treaties, exchange rates, the IRS definition of “timely receipt” for payments postmarked from overseas (hint: for payments coming from overseas, the IRS does not consider the postmark date, as they do for domestically filed tax payments) and how to make payments. The document gives the contact information for the IRS office in Philadelphia, the principal office responsible for providing tax assistance to overseas taxpayers. Finally, the document gives a point of contact for unresolved tax matters.

The [IRS website](#) is comprehensive. It contains all required information for filing your U.S. taxes from abroad. Some features include: [IRS Forms and Publications](#), [Frequently Asked Questions by Aliens and U.S. Citizens Abroad](#) and the page titled, [Help With Tax Questions – International Taxpayers](#), on which you can submit questions directly to the IRS Philadelphia office.

For more information, you may check the Power Point presentation featured on the right-hand side of the [Taxes](#) page of the U.S. Embassy website.

Americans living or traveling in Ecuador are encouraged to register with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate through the State Department's travel registration website <https://travelregistration.state.gov>, and to obtain updated information on travel and security within Ecuador.

Americans without Internet access may register directly with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate. By registering, American citizens make it easier for the Embassy or Consulate to contact them in case of emergency. Please see the following links for local warden message information in Quito and Guayaquil, respectively: <http://ecuador.usembassy.gov/> and <http://guayaquil.usconsulate.gov/>.

U.S. citizens should consult the Country Specific Information for Ecuador and the latest Travel Alerts and Warnings and Worldwide Caution at the Department's web site at <http://travel.state.gov>. Updated information on travel and security in Ecuador may also be obtained from the Department of State by calling 1-888-407-4747 within the United States or by calling 1-202-501-4444 outside the United States.

The U.S. Embassy in Quito is located at Avigiras E12-170 y Eloy Alfaro. The telephone during business hours (8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.) is (011) 593-2-398-5000 x3800. Within the same city use the last seven digits. Add the city code for intercity telephone calls. See also the Embassy web site at <http://ecuador.usembassy.gov/>. American Citizen walk-in hours are between 1:30 p.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday thru Thursday, excluding U.S. and Ecuadorian holidays.

The U.S. Consulate General in Guayaquil is located at the corner of Avenida 9 de Octubre and Garcia Moreno (near the Hotel Oro Verde); telephone (011-593-4) 232-3570 during business hours (8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) or 232-1152 for after-hours emergencies; fax (011-593-4) 232-0904. See the Consulate General web site at <http://guayaquil.usconsulate.gov/>.

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