



Shanghai Consulate News for Americans

Issue 24

January, 2010

Holiday Travel Tips

This newsletter is published by the American Citizens Services (ACS) Unit, U.S. Consulate General in Shanghai. If there are any particular topics you are interested in, please contact ACS at: ShanghaiACS@state.gov.

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For those planning holiday travel, we offer a few tips to make your travel smoother:

- **Check Your Passport:** Do you have enough pages for visas and entry stamps? If your U.S. passport will expire within six months, you probably want to consider renewing your passport. Many countries in Asia, including China, require six months of validity on your passport to apply for a visa or enter the country. Remember that passports for children under 16 years old are only valid for five years. To learn how to renew your passport, visit http://shanghai.usembassy-china.org.cn/u.s.passport_renewals.html.
- **Make Your Appointment Early:** All non-emergency consular services require an appointment. It typically takes 10 working days from the time you apply to receive a full validity passport. The Consulate is especially busy before and during school holidays. If you know that you will need to renew your passport or add visa pages soon, make your appointment now! Simply visit our website: <https://evisaforms.state.gov/acs/default.asp?postcode=SHG&appcode=1>.

- **Check the Visa Requirements for Your Destination:** Check our Country Specific Information Sheets to learn the Entry and Exit Requirements for your destination. These information sheets are available online at http://travel.state.gov/travel/travel_1744.html.
- **Inform Your Family of Your Travel Plans:** Tell your family members about your travel plans so that they are not surprised if they cannot reach you.
- **Avoid A Long Wait:** Try not to schedule your appointment for Mondays or the days immediately before or after a holiday when wait times are longest.
- **Check The Website:** You can find the answer to many common questions, as well as useful forms and instructions, on the Consulate website at http://shanghai.usembassy-china.org.cn/general_information_acs.

Regards,

American Citizen Services Unit
U.S. Consulate General in Shanghai, China

Upcoming Holidays and Other Closures

Special points of interest:

- * News: Shanghai Dairy Shut Over Tainted Milk Products
- * McNeil Consumer Healthcare Announces Voluntary Recall of Certain Over-The-Counter (OTC) Products in the Americas, UAE, and Fiji

Please remember that the days just before and just after a holiday are often extremely busy and you can expect significantly longer wait times. If you visit us outside of these times, you should have a shorter wait.

A full list of all of our holiday closings is available online at <http://shanghai.usembassy-china.org.cn/holidays.html>.

The American Citizen Services Unit will be

CLOSED on the following days:

February 13-17, Saturday-Wednesday Chinese (Lunar) New Year & President's Day

TSA GUIDANCE FOR PASSENGERS ON HEIGHTENED SECURITY MEASURES IN PLACE

http://www.tsa.gov/press/happenings/dec25_guidance.shtm

TSA GUIDANCE FOR PASSENGERS ON HEIGHTENED SECURITY MEASURES IN PLACE FOLLOWING DEC. 25 INCIDENT

On Dec. 25, 2009, an individual on board Northwest Airlines Flight 253 set off a device and was subdued by passengers and crew. TSA wishes to acknowledge the heroic efforts of those individuals.



As a result of this incident, TSA has worked with airline and law enforcement authorities, as well as federal, state, local, and international partners to put additional security measures in place to ensure aviation security remains strong. Passengers traveling domestically and internationally to U.S. destinations may notice additional screening measures.

The American people should continue their planned holiday travel. TSA encourages passengers to remain observant and aware of their surroundings and report any suspicious behavior or activity to law enforcement officials.

Visit here <http://www.tsa.gov/press/happenings/northwest_statement.shtm> to read a state-

ment about the incident from Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano.

Q: What additional security measures is TSA taking domestically?

A: TSA has a layered approach to security that allows us to surge resources as needed on a daily basis. We have the ability to quickly implement additional screening measures including explosive detection canine teams, law enforcement officers, gate screening, behavior detection and other measures both seen and unseen. Passengers should not expect to see the same thing at every airport.

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Security Situation - Travel Warnings and Alerts

Security reminder: It is prudent for you and your family to review your personal security profile and to be aware of your surroundings at all times.

Since our previous Newsletter, the U.S. Department of State has issued new Travel Warnings for the following countries.

<u>Haiti</u>	01/14/2010
<u>Pakistan</u>	01/07/2010
<u>Sudan</u>	12/31/2009
<u>Somalia</u>	12/31/2009

Travel Warnings are issued to describe long-term, protracted conditions that make a country dangerous or unstable. A Travel Warning is also issued when the U.S. Government's ability to assist American citizens is constrained due to the closure of an embassy or consulate or because of a drawdown of its staff. This information is available at http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_1764.html.

The U.S. Department of State also has issued new Travel Alerts:

Malaysia 1/16/2010

Travel Alerts are issued to disseminate information about short-term conditions generally within a particular country or region that pose imminent risks to the security of U.S. citizens.

Natural disasters, terrorist attacks, coups, anniversaries of terrorist events, election-related demonstrations or violence, and high-profile events such as international conferences or regional sports events are examples of conditions that might generate a Travel Alert. This information is available at http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/pa/pa_1766.html.

The Department has released a Travel Alert for Malaysia, calling attention to the risks of travel to eastern Sabah, in Malaysia, due to threat of violence against foreigners, and urging extreme caution if traveling there. Please check the following link for

more information:

http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/pa/pa_malaysia.html.

The most up-to-date information regarding permitted and prohibited items on flights can be viewed online at <http://www.tsa.gov/travelers/airtravel/prohibited/permitted-prohibited-items.shtm>.

For additional information, please visit "Americans Traveling Abroad" on the U.S. Department of State website: http://travel.state.gov/visa/americans/americans_1252.html. Students traveling abroad may wish to visit the State Department site designed for them: <http://studentsabroad.state.gov/>.

To obtain up-to-date information on security conditions, please call 1-888-407-4747 (toll free in the United States), or +1-202-501-4444 if you are outside the United States.

You may also visit the Consular Affairs twitter page at <http://twitter.com/TravelGov>.

Warden Message Regarding Cadmium in Children's Jewelry

This warden message is to inform Americans of recent U.S. media reports concerning the potential danger of children's metal jewelry produced in China containing cadmium. Inez Tenenbaum, Chairman of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), warns that young children should not be given or allowed to play with metal costume jewelry made in China.

Since 2004, the CPSC has conducted recalls of more than 180 million pieces of metal jewelry because they contained a hazardous amount of lead. Recent reports indicate that producers of children's jewelry in China are using potentially dangerous levels of the heavy metal cadmium, a known carcinogen, as a substitute. In response to these reports, Chairman Tenenbaum states that the CPSC has opened a formal investigation into the dangers of children's metal jewelry manufactured in China.

The CPSC warns that swallowing, sucking on or chewing a metal charm or necklace could result in exposure

to lead, cadmium or other heavy metals, which are known to be toxic at certain levels of exposure. CPSC further warns caregivers to protect young children from possibly being exposed to lead, cadmium or any other hazardous heavy metal by removing any items that may contain the offending metals.

It is very difficult to determine if a specific item contains harmful levels of a metal. Please check the CPSC website at <http://www.cpsc.gov/index.html> for more information and further updates.

U.S. Embassy Beijing: Tian Ze Road intersection of An Jia Lou Road, Chaoyang District. Telephone number during regular business hours and for after-hours emergencies: 86-10-8531-4000, Email: amcitbeijing@state.gov. The Embassy's website is beijing.usembassy-china.org.cn.

U.S. Consulate General Chengdu: Number 4, Lingshiguan Road, Section 4, Renmin Nanlu, Chengdu 610041, tel. 86-28-8558-3992, Email: consularchengdu@state.gov. For after-

hours emergencies, please call 86-28-1370-800-1422.

U.S. Consulate General Guangzhou: The Consular Section is located at 5th Floor, Tianyu Garden (II phase), 136-146 Lin He Zhong Lu, Tianhe District, Guangzhou 510133, tel. (86-20) 8518-7605, Email: GuangzhouACS@state.gov. Guangzhou adoptions Email: GuangzhouA@state.gov. For after-hours emergencies, please call 86-20-8121-8000.

U.S. Consulate General Shanghai: The Consular Section is located in the Westgate Mall, 8th Floor, 1038 Nanjing Xi Lu, Shanghai 200041; tel. (86-21) 3217-4650, Email: Shanghaiacs@state.gov. For after-hours emergencies, please call 86-21-6433-3936.

U.S. Consulate General Shenyang: No. 52, 14th Wei Road, Heping District, Shenyang 110003; tel. (86-24) 2322-1198, Email: ShenyangACS@state.gov. For after-hours emergencies, please call 86-24-137-0988-9307.

Replacing a Lost or Stolen Passport

If your passport was lost or stolen during this holiday season, please follow the procedures to apply for a replacement passport:

****Personal Appearance**** In the case of an applicant under age 16, both parents should also come to the Consulate, or one parent may apply with the notarized written consent of the other.

Bring a lost passport report, which you can get from: The Shanghai Entry/Exit Bureau (EEB), 1500 Min Sheng Road, Pudong, Shanghai, Tel: (86-21) 2895-1900 (press 2 for the operator). This report is also necessary to ensure your smooth departure from Shanghai after we issue a new passport.

Passport application form (DS-11), Affidavit (DS-64), Proof of your Identity, such as copy of lost/stolen US passport, US drivers license, U.S. state ID and/or Military ID. Two Photos must be 2" X 2" (5 cm X 5 cm).

The fee for a replacement passport is U.S. \$100.00 for adults and \$85.00 for children (or RMB equivalent), cash or credit card.

TSA GUIDANCE FOR PASSENGERS ON HEIGHTENED SECURITY MEASURES IN PLACE

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Q: What additional security measures are being taken for international flights to U.S. destinations?

A: TSA issued a directive for additional security measures to be implemented for last point of departure international flights to the United States. Passengers flying into the United States from abroad can expect to see additional security measures at international airports such as increased gate screening including pat-downs and bag searches. During flight, passengers will be asked to follow flight crew instructions, such as stowing personal items, turning off electronic

equipment and remaining seated during certain portions of the flight.

Q: Do passengers need to do anything differently to prepare for checkpoint security procedures? Has anything changed in terms of what passengers can bring in their carry-on or checked bags?

A: At this time, security checkpoint requirements for passengers departing U.S. airports remain the same. Passengers do not need to do anything differently, but they may notice additional security measures at the airport.

Q: Should passengers plan to arrive at

airports earlier than normal?

A: Passengers traveling within the United States should give themselves extra time to check in and proceed through the security checkpoint before their flight, especially during the busy holiday travel season. TSA advises that passengers traveling on international flights to U.S. destinations allow extra time for security and arrive an additional hour earlier.

Q: How long will these measures remain in place?

A: TSA will continuously review these measures to ensure the highest levels of security.

Voting Information for Florida



Florida will hold on Feb. 2, 2009. A Special Election to fill the Congressional vacancy left by the resignation of Congressman Robert Wexler. A list of candidates is available at <http://election.dos.state.fl.us/candidate/index.asp>. The 19th Congressional District includes parts of Broward and Palm Beach Counties.

The Special General Election will be held on Tuesday, April 13, 2010.

For More Information: Go to the Florida Division of Election website at <http://election.dos.state.fl.us> or visit FVAP at: www.fvap.gov.

Leaving Shanghai Consular District?

If you are departing the Shanghai consular district after a long stay here and you formally registered your stay with the U.S. Consulate, please do not forget to cancel your registration when you leave. You can unregister yourself by visiting the travelregistration.state.gov site if you were previously registered through this site.

If you previously submitted a paper registration form to the U.S. consulate, you may unregister yourself by sending an email request to:

ShanghaiACS@state.gov.



News: Shanghai Dairy Shut Over Tainted Milk Products

BEIJING (AP) -- Chinese authorities shut down a dairy in Shanghai and arrested three of its executives after tests found some of its milk products were tainted with the same industrial chemical at the center of a milk safety scandal more than a year ago, state media said Friday.

The Shanghai Daily newspaper said authorities found that Shanghai Panda Dairy Co. Ltd. was producing milk powder and condensed milk with unacceptably high levels of [melamine](#), which can cause kidney stones and kidney failure.

It said eight batches of contaminated milk powder and condensed milk were found and would be destroyed.

Authorities revoked Shanghai Panda's business and food production licenses

and arrested its corporate representative, general manager and deputy general manager, the report said.

Calls to the company rang unanswered and the Shanghai municipal public security bureau was shut on New Year's Day, a public holiday in China.

At least six children died in 2008 after drinking contaminated baby formula and more than 300,000 were sickened in one of the country's worst [food safety](#) crises. The scandal exposed the widespread practice of adding melamine, normally used in the manufacture of plastics and fertilizer, to watered-down milk to increase profits and fool inspectors testing for protein.

Last month, police detained three

people suspected of selling tons of melamine-tainted milk powder in northern Shaanxi province. Weeks earlier, China executed a dairy farmer and a milk salesman for involvement in the 2008 scandal.

The cases underscore the challenges China faces in improving food safety, despite the enactment last year of a tough food safety law promising harsher penalties for makers of tainted products. China continues to have trouble regulating countless small enterprises and illegally run operations that are often blamed for introducing illegal chemicals and food additives.

(By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS published on January 1, 2010)

McNeil Consumer Healthcare Announces Voluntary Recall of Certain Over-The-Counter (OTC) Products in the Americas, UAE, and Fiji

In consultation with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), McNeil Consumer Healthcare, Division of McNEIL-PPC, Inc., is voluntarily recalling certain lots of OTC products in the Americas, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and Fiji. The company is initiating this recall following an investigation of consumer reports of an unusual moldy, musty, or mildew-like odor that, in a small number of cases, was associated with temporary and non-serious gastrointestinal events. These include nausea, stomach pain, vomiting, or diarrhea. This precautionary action is voluntary and has been taken in consultation with the FDA.

Consumers who purchased product from the lots included in this recall should stop using the product and contact McNeil Consumer Healthcare for instructions on a refund or replacement. For these instructions or information regarding how to return or dispose of the product, consumers should log on to the internet at www.mcneilproductrecall.com or call 1-888-222-6036 (Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Eastern Time, and Saturday-Sunday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern Time). Consumers who have medical concerns or questions should contact their healthcare provider. Any adverse reactions may also be reported to the FDA's MedWatch Program by fax at 1-800-FDA-0178, by mail at MedWatch, FDA, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20852-9787, or on the MedWatch website at www.fda.gov/medwatch.

The affected product lot numbers for the recalled products can be found on the side of the bottle label.

The website where the recall notice is posted is: <http://www.mcneilproductrecall.com/page.jhtml?id=/include/press.inc>.

(Fort Washington, PA January 15, 2010)

Shanghai Consulate
News for Americans

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Road, Westgate Mall, 8th
Floor

Tel: (86-21) 3217-4650

Fax: (86-21) 6217-2071

After Hours
Emergencies:

(86-21) 6433-3936

Open 8:00am - 11:30am
and 1:30pm - 3:30pm
Monday to Friday.

*Closed on Tuesday
afternoons, weekends
and holidays.

[http://shanghai.usembassy-
china.org.cn/](http://shanghai.usembassy-china.org.cn/)

Frequently Asked Questions about Chinese Visas:

Q1. What type of Chinese visa do I have?

A: L= Tourist Visa; F= Business Visa; Z=Working Visa; X= Student Visa.

*According to Chinese law, if you hold an F visa, you are not allow to earn income here. So, if you have signed a contract with a company and will start your full-time job here in Shanghai, you must apply for a working (Z) visa and residence permit from your company. Otherwise, the government may fine you and your company for illegal employment.

Q2. What can I do if I hold a Tourist (L) Visa and want to stay longer in China?

A: An L visa can be extend twice, each time for 1 month.

Q3. Can I get a 6 month Business (F) visa inside China?

A: Starting Nov. 3, 2008, the 3 or 6 month F visa is available again, if you currently have an L visa, you can extend it to a 3-6 month F visa with 1 entry without leaving the country. If you currently have an F visa, you can extend it to a 3-6 month F visa with 1 entry without leaving the country! You should submit your application 5 or more days before it expires.

Q4. If my visa expired and I overstayed in Shanghai, what can I do and how will I have to pay?

A: According to Chinese immigration law, if your visa expired less than 10 days ago, you have to go to the immigration office, where the officer will take your written statement, and give you a warning. If your visa expired more than 10 days ago, they will charge you a fine of 500RMB per day excluding the first 10 days, up to a maximum of 5000RMB. For example, if you have over stayed 12 days, they will charge $(12-10)*500=1000$ RMB.

Address: No.1500 Min Sheng Rd., Pudong, Shanghai, China.

Telephone: 86-21-28951900 Working Hours: Mon.-Sat. 9:00—17:00

Want Faster Service? Fill out Passport Application Online BEFORE Coming to the Consulate

The Shanghai ACS Section strongly encourages all applicants to use electronic application forms for all passport services, including passport renewals and adding visa pages (Forms DS-11, DS-82, DS-5504 and DS-4085). After completing your application online, print the application and bring it to your appointment.

Failure to complete these applications online will delay the processing of your application, and increase your wait-time.

You can access the required forms at the ACS website http://shanghai.usembassy-china.org.cn/passport_forms.html or http://travel.state.gov/passport/forms/forms_847.html.

Note: For applicants without social security numbers (ex: newborn babies), enter 000-00-0000 as the SSN on the online form.

If your passport is lost or stolen, you can print out a Statement Regarding Lost or

Stolen Passport (DS-64). And if you are applying for a minor's passport and both parents cannot sign the application together, you can print out a Statement of Consent (DS-3053). These special forms do not need to be filled out online.

