



Shanghai Consulate News for Americans

Issue 65

June 2013

IRS Reminds Those With Foreign Assets Of U.S. Tax Obligations

Leaving China?

Did you know that you can end your enrollment with the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) by visiting the step.state.gov site? If you previously submitted a paper enrollment form to the U.S. consulate, you may end your enrollment by sending an email request to: ShanghaiACS@state.gov.

On May 23, 2013, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) issued a news release to remind U.S. citizens and resident aliens, including those with dual citizenship who have lived or worked abroad during all or part of 2012, that they may have a U.S. tax liability and a filing requirement in 2013.

For such taxpayers who reside overseas, their form 1040 Individual Tax Return is due by June 17. Depending on the taxpayer's personal situation, Form 8938, Statement of Foreign Financial Assets, may also be due (attached to their form

1040). Depending on the balance maintained in a foreign bank account, a taxpayer may also need to file a form TD F 90-22.1, Report of Foreign Bank and Financial Accounts (FBAR) by June 30, 2013.

These reminders are addressed in the IRS News Release found at <http://www.irs.gov/uac/Newsroom/IRS-Reminds-Those-with-Foreign-Assets-of-U.S.-Tax-Obligations>. More details may be found at www.irs.gov.

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Safety FIRST

The American Citizen Services unit recognizes for most visitors, China remains a very safe country. Petty street crime is the most common safety concern for U.S. citizens in China. However, business disputes between U.S. citizens and Chinese business partners can result in a physical confrontation or kidnapping. If you or someone you know becomes the victim of a crime abroad, you should contact the local police. The local equivalent to the U.S. "911" emergency line in China is "110."

U.S. citizens are reminded to not buy counterfeit or pirated goods, even if they are widely available. Not only are the bootlegs illegal in the United States; if you purchase them, you may also be breaking local law. We'd like to remind U.S. citizens that in recent crackdowns on counterfeit goods, the Chinese authorities found and seized counterfeit and bootleg alcohol. Consumption of these counterfeit and bootleg alcohol may cause serious bodily harm including blindness and death. There are also news reports of people being injured from glass shards from exploding bootleg liquor bottles. Bootleg alcohol may have poor quality labeling, strange taste or odor, and/or be sold at a much lower price.

Air Quality Monitor at U.S. Consulate Shanghai

The U.S. Consulate General in Shanghai has a PM2.5 air quality monitor to measure fine particles in the air. Data from this monitor are used to calculate the Air Quality Index (AQI) which provides a health resource for the American community. If you would like to view our data, please look for us on Twitter ([@cgshanghaiair](https://twitter.com/cgshanghaiair)) or view our website at <http://shanghai.usembassy-china.org.cn/airmonitor.html>.

Travel Warnings and Alerts

Security reminder: It is advisable that you and your family review your personal security profile and 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:

Somalia	06/21/2013
Israel, the West Bank and Gaza	06/19/2013
Honduras	06/17/2013
Niger	06/14/2013
Chad	06/11/2013
Libya	06/07/2013
Nigeria	06/03/2013
Iran	05/24/2013

Travel Warnings are issued to describe long-term, protracted conditions that make a country danger-

ous 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.

Since our previous Newsletter, the U.S. Department of State has issued new **Travel Alerts**:

Guinea	06/18/2013
Turkey	06/04/2013
Cameroon	05/31/2013
Hurricane Season	05/30/2013
Iran	05/29/2013

Travel Alerts are issued to disseminate information about short-term conditions generally within a particular country or region that pose immi-

nent 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 most up-to-date information regarding permitted and **prohibited items** on flights can be viewed online at www.tsa.gov.

For additional information, please visit "**Americans Traveling Abroad**" on the website of the U.S. Department of State http://travel.state.gov/visa/americans/americans_1252.html.

Upcoming Holidays & Other Closures

A full list of all of our closures is online at <http://shanghai.usembassy-china.org.cn/service.html>. The ACS Unit will be **CLOSED** to the public on:

<u>July 4, 2013, Thursday</u>	Independence Day	独立日	Dùlì Rì
<u>July 26, 2013, Friday</u>	Administrative Closure	行政管理日	Xíngzhèng Guǎnlǐ Rì
<u>August 16, 2013, Friday</u>	Administrative Closure	行政管理日	Xíngzhèng Guǎnlǐ Rì

American Citizen Services (ACS) Contact Information

U.S. Consulate General, Shanghai, China, 1038 West Nanjing Road, 8/F
Westgate Mall 梅龙镇广场 (Méi Lóng Zhèn Guǎng Chǎng)

Routine Services: 8:00am - 11:30am

Passport Pickups: 1:00pm - 3:00pm

Mon - Fri *Closed on Wednesday afternoons, weekends, and holidays.

After Hours Emergencies: (86-21) 3217-4650

Homepage: shanghai.usembassy-china.org.cn/service.html