



Embassy of the United States of America
Public Affairs Office

PRESS RELEASE

Freetown
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IMPORTANT CHANGES TO NONIMMIGRANT VISA
APPLICATION PROCEDURES

The U.S. Embassy in Freetown will implement new visa application procedures on March 1, 2011. The following services will be provided to all applicants:

- Machine Readable Visa (MRV) fee collection
- Scheduling of visa appointments
- Information on general visa inquiries

In connection with these changes, please be informed of the following:

- MRV fees must now be paid at Ecobank. Upon payment of the MRV fee, a receipt number will be provided for the applicant in order to access the appointment system online or by phone. When the receipt number is used to book an appointment, the appointment will be tied to the applicant's passport number. MRV fee payments are no longer transferable.

- After payment of MRV fees, the applicant may book an appointment online through www.ustraveldocs.com/sl/ or by calling the call center. The website and the call center will be operational on March 1, 2011. Telephone numbers that may be used to dial the call center from Sierra Leone and the U.S. will be released to the public on March 1. The call center will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m GMT, Monday to Friday, except on U.S. and Sierra Leonean holidays.
- MRV fee payments can still be made through Sierra Leone Commercial Bank until February 28, 2011. Applicants who pay within this period or applicants who paid the fee but have not yet booked an appointment must schedule an interview through the new appointment system only. Existing MRV fee receipts will be valid for three months from the date of purchase.
- Applicants with confirmed interview appointments will not be affected by this transition. They can appear at the Embassy on the date scheduled and their applications will be processed as usual.