

US Embassy in Jamaica moves to paperless visa system

The US Embassy in Kingston has announced that as of Wednesday, March 24, 2010, it will accept only online visa applications, doing away with the paper-based forms familiar to applicants.

On March 24, use of the new form becomes mandatory and the US Embassy will no longer accept printed DS-156 nonimmigrant visa applications. Form DS-160, the new electronic form, will be available on the embassy's website (www.kingston.usembassy.gov) beginning Thursday, March 4, 2010 for optional use by applicants. Applicants are encouraged to begin using the new DS-160 form as soon as it becomes available.

The new DS-160 form, which will replace the current paper-based DS-156 non-immigrant visa application, must be completed and sent online and the information on the application will be electronically transmitted to the US Embassy. The new system is expected to improve efficiency, accuracy, and security for all visa applicants.

Beginning March 24, 2010, non-immigrant visa applicants need only present at their interviews a printed DS-160 confirmation sheet issued at the time of the electronic filing, their passport, and a visa application fee-paid receipt from any National Commercial Bank Jamaica (NCB) branch.

The transition to the DS-160 online form will not change any other portion of the current nonimmigrant visa application process. Specifically, the processes for making an appointment and paying the visa application fee will not change and all applicants will still be interviewed by a consular officer to determine their qualifications.

Prospective nonimmigrant visa applicants should visit the embassy's website for instructions on the complete visa application process.