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## **VISA APPLICATION PROCESS STREAMLINED – NO INTERVIEWS FOR CERTAIN “RENEWAL” APPLICANTS**

As previously reported in FosterQuan’s Immigration Update, earlier this year President Obama issued an [Executive Order](#) calling for the development of plans to increase nonimmigrant visa processing capacity at posts in China and Brazil, to reduce the wait time for interviews at those posts, and to promote tourism and visitor travel to the United States. The President also announced a Pilot Program allowing visa interview waivers for certain visa applicants. Following the President’s Executive Order, various U.S. Consulates have developed and implemented procedures that streamline the visa application process for many visa applicants.

### **Interview Waivers at U.S. Consulates in China**

U.S. Consulates in China will now accept applications from certain applicants without requiring an in-person interview. Under guidelines implemented by the U.S. Mission to China, applicants for “renewals” of B, C1, D, C1/D, F, J, M & O nonimmigrant visas may be eligible for a waiver of the visa interview. Applicants must have previously provided full ten-print fingerprints and must have previously been interviewed for the same visa type and must be applying within 48 months of previous visa expiration. Additionally H, L, or P visa applicants may be eligible for a waiver of the visa interview if applying for a visa of the same type within 12 months of previous visa expiration.

### **Interview Waivers at U.S. Consulates in India**

Recently the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi announced that B-1/B-2 visitor visa applicants who were previously screened (full ten-print fingerprinting) and interviewed in connection with their previous visitor visa applications may be eligible for a waiver of the visa interview when applying for a new B-1/B-2 visa within 48 months of the expiration of their previous visitor visas.

### **Other Posts**

Other U.S. Consulates around the world have begun implementing variations of the pilot program for interview waivers.

London: The U.S. Embassy in London and U.S. Consulate in Belfast may waive the interview requirement for applicants applying for renewed C-1/D, J, H-1, O or P visa within 12 months of the expiration of their previous visas.

Oslo: The U.S. Embassy in Oslo may waive the interview requirement for applicants applying for renewed B-1/B-2, C-1/D, F, M, J, O, or Q visas within 48 months of the expiration of their previous visas. Applicants for renewed E, H, L, P, and R visas may request an interview waiver when applying within 12 months of the expiration of their previous visas.

Moscow: The U.S. Embassy in Moscow may waive the interview requirement for nonimmigrant visa applicants applying for the same type of visa within 11 months of the expiration of their previous visas.

Manila: The U.S. Embassy in Manila may waive the interview requirement, though an appointment may still be required to submit the application and fingerprints, for nonimmigrant visa applicants applying for the same type of visa within 12 months of the expiration of their previous visas.

While not all U.S. Consulates have fully implemented visa interview waiver procedures, the overall pilot initiative permits interview waiver procedures at posts worldwide for certain visa applicants. As various posts begin to implement variations of the interview waiver pilot program locally, visa applicants are encouraged to visit each post's website for the most up-to-date visa application procedures in advance of scheduling a visa appointment. [Links](#) to the various U.S. Embassy and Consulate websites may be found on the U.S. Department of State website. For more information about the various nonimmigrant visa categories, or for assistance in the nonimmigrant visa petition or application process, contact your [FosterQuan immigration attorney](#).