



October 6, 2014

His Excellency Mauro Vieira
Ambassador
Embassy of Brazil
3006 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20008

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

We are writing on behalf of the members of our associations who book the majority of tourist travel from the U.S to Brazil, which in 2013 amounted to 406,000 residents, a two percent increase over 2012 according to the U.S. Office of Travel and Tourism Industries. We are extremely concerned about the limitations several Brazilian consulates have recently placed on visa applications, which is resulting in an inordinate increase in the number of days required to secure a visa for travel to Brazil.

The majority of U.S. travelers to Brazil rely on one of our members or third-party visa services to secure their Brazil visas. Travelers often prefer to use a third-party to secure their visa rather than travel to one of the 10 consulates and obtain it themselves. The restrictions that have recently been placed on third-party submissions of visa applications, we fear, will cause many travelers to cancel their trip to Brazil.

We are already experiencing increasing restrictions on when third-parties can submit applications for travelers to Brazil and the length of time for visa issuance is growing longer and longer.

As of the week of September 29, here are the processing restrictions for several of your busiest consulates:

New York: December 1 is the first date a third-party company can submit an application for a traveler. This means that none of our members can submit an application in behalf of one of their clients for the next two months. In addition, the time required to process and issue visas is 10 to 15 business days after submission.

San Francisco: The earliest date an application can be submitted by a third-party is November 6. The time required to process and issue visas is about seven business days.

Chicago: Limits the total number of third-party visa applications that can be submitted to 60 per day and no more than 10 visa applications can be submitted by one company. This restriction is completely unrealistic because some of the

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larger third-party visa service companies will submit 100 or more applications in one day.

Miami: It takes 45 business days to process visa applications. There is no official limit on how many visa applications a third-party visa service can submit daily. However, on most days no more than 20 per company will be accepted. Like Chicago, the larger third-party visa service companies may submit 100 or more applications in one day.

As you know, the undersigned organizations promote and facilitate travel to Brazil, which is a significant contributor to Brazilian economy. We are gravely concerned that the current application submission limitations and processing times may result in U.S. consumers not traveling to Brazil because a visa will not be issued in time.

Ambassador Vieira, we respectfully request your help in removing application submission limits and appointment delays for third-parties. We would also request that visa-processing times be reduced to one week similar to San Francisco. Accordingly, we also kindly request the privilege of meeting with your consulate staff to develop solutions to help address the increasing volume of applications during the high travel season from the U.S. to Brazil.

Please contact Michael McGarry, Senior Vice President with CLIA at mmcgarry@cruising.org or 754-201-2119 for any follow-up communication.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



Christine Duffy
President & CEO
CLIA



Zane Kerby
President & CEO
ASTA



Terry Dale
President & CEO
USTOA

CLIA Cruise Line Industry Association www.cruising.org
ASTA American Society of Travel Agents www.usta.org
USTOA United States Tour Operators Association www.ustoa.org

cc: Brazilian Consulates General
Attachment: About Our Associations