

Updated 16 June 2008

VISA PROCEDURES FOR JOURNALISTS

XVII International AIDS Conference

Please note the following important information:

- The visa for media representatives does not have a cost. However the visa must be accompanied by an FM3 (which allows you to work in Mexico as a media correspondent), which has a cost in most countries.
- Media representatives from countries that DO NOT need a visa, DO NOT need a visa to cover the conference but DO NEED an FM3.
- Media representatives from countries that DO need a visa, DO need a visa to cover the conference and also DO NEED an FM3.

The list of countries that do not require a visa to enter Mexico is available at www.aids2008.org/visas.

FM3 application (all journalists)

You can obtain an FM3 from any Mexican embassy or consulate. To obtain form FM3, you must submit:

- Proof of payment of fee.
- Completed Visa Application Form.
- Five photographs (4X4 cm), 3 front and 2 right profile (2.5 cm from chin to hairline), white background, with forehead and ears uncovered, and without earrings or eyeglasses. Instant photographs are not acceptable.

Visa application (journalists from a country which requires a visa)

Mexican migratory regulations establish the requirements for entering the country for purposes of serving as a media correspondent. These requirements are for nationalities from countries that require a visa:

1. Passport or Identification and Travel Document, which must be valid for a minimum of six months beyond the date of entry into Mexico.
2. Original and copy of the official Migratory Procedures Request form, duly completed and signed. This form can be obtained from a Mexican consulate or embassy.
3. Two full-face photographs, in colour, measuring 3 cm by 2.5 cm.
4. Reliable evidence that the individual represents an information media outlet and will enter the national territory, in his or her role as a correspondent, in order to cover a special event.
5. Evidence that the event to be covered by the individual is to be held.
6. Appearance of the individual, in person, before the consular authority.
7. Submission of a detailed list of any professional equipment that will be temporarily brought into Mexico, so that it may be certified by the Consulate or Embassy.
8. The visa for this type of migration is free of charge for all nationalities.

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ALL persons who wish to act as Correspondents during the XVII International AIDS Conference, including journalists, camerapersons, photographers, and support personnel for any information media outlet, must request a Correspondent Visa for this purpose from the Embassy or Consulate nearest their domicile. IT IS ILLEGAL TO ACT AS A CORRESPONDENT WITHOUT HAVING THE APPROPRIATE MIGRATORY STATUS.

The correspondent must contact the representation where he or she wishes to apply for the Visa and ensure that he or she has the documentation required for the application process, since some requirements may vary depending on the country of application. In the event that the applicant should fail to provide all required documents, neither the embassy nor the consulate will be responsible for handling the Visa application.

When to Apply for Your Visa

The Mexican authorities have not guaranteed a specific timeline for the approval of your visa/FM3 application for travel to Mexico. In practice, many embassies have taken little time to process visa/FM3 applications. However, because we cannot guarantee that the process will be swift, we must emphasize the need for you to contact your nearest embassy in the next few days to initiate the application process as soon as possible.

If There is No Mexican Embassy in Your Country

Unfortunately, all journalist visa/FM3 applicants must appear in person at their nearest Mexican embassy to obtain the necessary entry and work visas. This means you will have to travel to another country if there is no Mexican embassy in your country of residence. The UNDP Visa Delivery Service is not available for journalists.

Visa-Related Contact

Should you have any visa-related questions or concerns, or experience any problems when applying for your visa, kindly email visa@aid2008.org. Please do not copy, email or phone conference media staff about visa-related issues. We are in close contact with the visa staff and will be aware of any problems you are experiencing.